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LD2206134388 [Editorial Report]

Afghanistan

"Pressure" from government troops caused mujahidin fighters to abandon Qalat, capital of Zabol Province, resistance sources revealed to AFP. Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov confirmed to journalists in Moscow that Qalat is under the "full control" of the local authorities appointed by the central government in Kabul, PRAVDA reported.

According to Kabul radio, the Afghan Armed Forces "inflicted heavy blows" on rebels "in and around" Zabol Province. The military routed a 250-member "extremist group," killing 130 and wounding the rest. In the Spin Buldak district of Qandahar Province, rebel action carried out "with the help of foreign advisers" was also "crushed," the radio noted, adding that 135 mujahidin were killed and 100 wounded.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian troops repulsed an Iraqi attack in the mountains around Mawat 21-22 June, inflicting over 3,000 casualties, Iran announced in a communique reported by Tehran radio. The radio also reported that Iranian fighter bombers carried out raids on positions of Iraq's I Army Corps in the Mawat area, which is northeast of Al-Sulaymaniyah.

Iranian planes had earlier bombed Iraqi positions in the Mehran area, according to an Iranian military communique reported by IRNA. An Iranian Air Force official denied Iraqi reports that an Iranian F-5 was shot down 21 June, IRNA noted.

On the recent fighting in Mehran, the Iranian National Liberation Army announced that "at least" 8,000 Iranian Government troops were killed or injured and 1,500 taken prisoner in the battle for the city, according to an INA report which cited the Mojahedin-e Khalq's clandestine Radio Mojahed.

Iran

British Delegation's Visit—Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri told the visiting British parliamentary delegation that Iran will ask its friends in Lebanon to help locate British hostages in Beirut if Britain likewise takes steps to help the release of Iranian hostages in Lebanon, IRNA reported.

While criticizing Britain's "erroneous policies in siding with the warmongering Baghdad regime," Mo'ayeri expressed hope that relations with Britain will return to their previous level and that future British policies will eliminate obstacles to the improvement of relations. The four-man British delegation also met with Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani, who called for "a parting of ways" between Britain and the United States over ties with Iran, the agency noted.

Relations With DPRK—Visiting DPRK Prime Minister Yi Kun-mo was received by 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief of the armed forces, who expressed hope that cooperation between the DPRK and Iran will "daily expand," Tehran radio reported. Yi stressed that North Korea will always stand by Iran and its revolution.

Lebanon

Radio Monte Carlo reported that 14 people were killed and 37 wounded in "fierce" inter-Palestinian clashes in Beirut refugee camps 21 June. The casualties included civilians outside the camps who were hit by artillery fire. The DFLP and PFLP issued a joint statement calling on high-level Palestinian leaders to intervene immediately to end the fighting, the radio added.

A booby-trapped car exploded in the Al-Badawi district of East Beirut 22 June, killing 1 person and injuring around 19 others, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. A security source cited by the radio blamed former Lebanese Forces leader Elie Hubayqah, asserting that the bombing was carried out by the same "hand" which planted the bomb in East Beirut's Al-Rumayl area 30 May. The latest car bomb followed explosions which injured at least two Syrian soldiers in the Al-Biqa' Valley, according to the Voice of Lebanon.

In southern Lebanon, the IDF captured four Palestinian "terrorists" who were trying to infiltrate into Israel, Jerusalem radio disclosed. Three of the Palestinians were wounded after a chase and exchange of gunfire. The PFLP claimed responsibility for the infiltration attempt, according to Radio Free Lebanon.

Israel

The document written by PLO official Bassam Abu Sharif and submitted to U.S. officials represents "nothing new" and "does not even merit a response," Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stated in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio.

On the possible sale of Chinese missiles to Syria, Peres said this represents a serious danger to the region, and he noted that Israel is in contact with other countries over the issue. The radio also broadcast a statement by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin warning the Arab countries that Israel is "well-prepared" to face missile attacks. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told IDF radio that Israel's problem with the Arabs is "not a territorial dispute which can be solved through territorial concessions" as "the problem is one of existence."

As for the security situation, Jerusalem radio reported that three Arabs were wounded during disturbances in the territories, while two Israeli women were injured by stones, one of them in an incident near the coastal town of Netanya. Some 50 Arabs were detained for questioning in connection with the discovery of an explosive device at a soldiers' hitchhiking stop near Beersheba.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Restoration of Egyptian-Algerian Ties Expected

JN2106180088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1735 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jun (WAKH)—Arab diplomatic sources said today that a relaxation in Egyptian-Algerian relations will occur soon.

The sources told the Cairo WAKH correspondent that an Algerian envoy will arrive here in the next few days to discuss the differences which have recently surfaced between the two states due to statements exchanged by both Cairo and Algiers and also to discuss arrangements for the restoration of bilateral relations.

The sources expected Egyptian-Algerian relations to be restored before the end of this month.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Faces Growing Opposition Within Fatah

NC2106172188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] According to reports received by the Voice of Lebanon, differences among members of the Fatah Movement's Revolutionary Council, which have been ongoing since the beginning of the year, caused extreme tension during the Council's most recent meeting held in Algiers on the eve of the Arab summit conference. During this meeting, Yasir 'Arafat threatened to resign his post.

The reports refer to increasing opposition to 'Arafat within the Fatah ranks, particularly in the wake of the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, and after 'Arafat appointed a number of his loyalists to sensitive posts inside the Fatah Revolutionary Council. These included Abu Tariq Hadari, whose appointment was strongly rejected by the opposition members.

During a meeting of the Fatah Revolutionary Council in January, the PLO chairman faced strong opposition when he attempted to depose Fatah's UAE representative Anis al-Khatib. Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, along with his supporters in the Council rejected this move. Consequently, it has been reported that two major opponents to 'Arafat, Abu Iyad and Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid], are seeking to revive the Fatah General Assembly during the upcoming Fatah Central Committee in August. The General Assembly is Fatah's highest forum.

According to Arab sources in Kuwait, Abu Jihad's widow, Intisar, met secretly in a Gulf country with Abu 'Ali Shahin, a former prominent Fatah official in Lebanon who has close links with the western sector's apparatus concerned with West Bank affairs. She discussed with him the possibility of continuing this apparatus' functions, despite the fact its members had not been included in the six-member committee recently formed by 'Arafat. This meeting was instigated by a number of this apparatus' members, among whom is Abu Firas, who was close to Abu Jihad.

A meeting is expected to be held in Kuwait which will include Zuhayr Manasri, Abu Ziyad, and Abu Firas. The resumption of the activity of the western sector's apparatus as an independent body is not being ruled out. This will affect the activity of the six-member committee. In addition, prominent officials in the western sector have warned against excluding their representatives from the six-member committee. They are of the opinion that 'Arafat's forming such a committee under his leadership, and his refusal to appoint an influential figure to succeed Khalil al-Wazir, is merely an obvious attempt to exclude Al-Wazir's supporters and to monopolize the decision-making within Fatah.

A Palestinian source in Algeria commented on 'Arafat's resignation threat by saying that this created a furor among some members of the Fatah Revolutionary Council. They expressed the fear that the confrontation within Fatah would have negative effects on the PLO's standing at the Algiers summit and consequently undermine the morale of the residents of the occupied territories. The source asserted that these continued differences are a fatal blow to the uprising.

PFLP, DFLP Urge Syria To End Camps Fighting

JN2206084288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] According to reports from Beirut, the fierce clashes that took place yesterday between pro-'Arafat and pro-Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut's southern suburb have resulted in the death of 14 persons and the wounding of 37 others. Artillery and rocket shells were used in the fighting. Neighboring areas were hit and citizens were killed as a result.

The PFLP and DFLP issued a joint statement calling on top level Palestinian leaders to intervene immediately to end the tragedy. The joint statement also calls on Syrian observers and Syrian soldiers deployed in the vicinity of the camps, as well as Lebanese leftist parties, to throw all their weight to bring about a commitment to an immediate end to the shelling and a cease-fire.

The PLO official spokesman called on the Syrian leaders to stop what he described as a massacre.

PLO Commentary Criticizes Mubarak Awad

JN1906203688 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1743 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Reading of the Political Situation" feature: "Mr Mubarak Awad, He Who Enters the PLO House Is Secure and Faithful, and He Who Enters the U.S. House Does Not Know How He Enters or How He Goes Out."]

[Text] Brothers: It is not difficult for the democrats who come from the U.S. democracy to forget, claim to forget, or try to ignore the democracy of their country and people or the democracy of their political entity, the PLO. It is never difficult for those to try to cancel the ideas of democracy, the democracy of the forest of guns, the democracy of the dialogue that is open to all winds and trends, allowing programs and plans, the democracy of the gun and olive branch, the democracy of the generations that grow up under the shadow of the unique political cleverness of a leadership that penetrates the impossible every day.

Mr Mubarak Awad does have distinguished marks. He is a struggler in his homeland who was expelled from his homeland and returned to his U.S. homeland carrying a cross and a banner and selling U.S. goods on a U.S. street. The American Americans reject the logic of the PLO and ignore it, thus ignoring the option of its people and its winning of the overall majority. This might be their right. The American American considers himself a rival of the Palestinian Palestinian. The forged American and the forged Palestinian do not originally have the right to reject or accept or provide solutions for those who asked their opinion. Where can he sell these goods and who is going to buy them?

Mr Mubarak Awad has not yet learned that the PNC is the only democratic institution in the Middle East that accepts the right opinion with regard to the general line of the Palestinian march. It is the only democratic institution in the region that makes, through all its organs — the Palestinian Central Council, the PLO Executive Committee, the institutions, apparatuses, the press, and all mass media, the Palestinian street in all Palestinian sites, the Palestinian existence open for all winds including the U.S. winds — real democratic decisions, plans, and tactics after winning an overwhelming majority.

These decisions and plans obtain their full legitimacy and become fit for implementation. However, this does not make the decision immune to criticism or even attack by some [words indistinct]. Mr Mubarak Awad does not know all this. Those who do not know [words indistinct]. You do not know, so we will inform you and direct you to the correct way. If you choose it, you will belong to us; if not, you will belong to them. You have the right to choose. [Words indistinct] by the following for demands:

1. The PLO should prepare a detailed program of its plan for peace in the Middle East.

2. The Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories should know this plan.

3. The Palestinians should gather around this plan.

4. The PLO should create a new image by which to storm the field of peace that Israel rejects.

To express our good intentions, we first tell Mr Awad that we carried out this first three points and demands in their entirety. We totally abided by his instruction and guidance. We actually prepared the plan; namely, the Palestinian national program that is based on the right to self-determination, repatriation, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the national soil, with Jerusalem as its capital. We also tell him that Palestinians everywhere, including those residing in the United States, are very familiar — with full alertness and consciousness — with this plan made by their National Council. We also tell him that Palestinians are committed to the plan and have fully gathered around it.

There remains a last point or a last demand by Mr Awad. He demands that we create a new image. That is, he is demanding that we cancel our old image, our old program and plan, as if Mr Awad were demanding that we cancel our whole program. That is, he is demanding that we cancel ourselves. We go on to say: God forbid, Awad ultimately belongs to us; a part of us but with question marks, wonders, or accusations.

Brother Awad must understand that he is one and we are a people. We do not want to say he is an American one. We say he is one until he proves the opposite, that is until he enters the house of the people, the house of the PLO. He who enters the PLO house is secure. He who enters the U.S. house is neither secure nor faithful. However, you are welcome anytime, our strange brother. We just hope you take a bath before you come. You are welcome.

Kuwait

Prime Minister Denies Rumors of Cabinet Reshuffle

JN2206132288 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 21 Jun 88 p 1

[Text] Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, said there is no intention to reshuffle the cabinet in the near future. During his meeting yesterday with Muhammad Qasim al-Saqr, editor in chief; Yusuf al-Samit, deputy editor in chief; and Ahmad al-Najdi, the managing director, Shaykh Sa'd said rumors on the possibility of changes in some government portfolios are untrue.

He said he heard such rumors but he affirms they are incorrect. The prime minister also said there is complete harmony in government work and ministerial matters are proceeding in a satisfactory and normal manner.

Shaykh Sa'd said he is preparing to visit the United States in July and that his talks with President Reagan and senior U.S. officials will deal with regional affairs and bilateral relations.

Anti-Drug Smuggling Protocol Signed With Turkey

TA2106171188 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1430 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Kuwait (A.A)—Turkey and Kuwait signed here a protocol for cooperation against drug smuggling. According to the protocol the two countries will provide incessant information to each other about drug running and illegal ways of trade. The two countries will make joint evaluations of methods employed by the smugglers and determine measures against them.

The protocol also foresees founding of a joint commission to establish coordination between the two countries in the fight against drug smuggling.

Drug addiction had increased in Kuwait in recent times and drivers of Turkish transportation trucks had been involved in drug smuggling.

There are at present 10 Turkish truck drivers in Kuwait prisons on charges of drug running.

Editorial Criticizes PLO Official's Statement

JN2006162288 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 19 Jun 88 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "The Way to the International Conference"]

[Text] There are signs of shifts in the traditional positions and policies on proposed solutions to, and concepts of, the Arab-Israeli conflict. The latest of these shifts is a statement by Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, that the PLO does not fear negotiations with Israel as long as such negotiations will lead to peace in the region and regain Palestinian rights. Abu Sharif also affirmed that the PLO is ready to hold talks with Yitzhaq Shamir under certain conditions, including a general referendum among the Palestinians to elect their representatives for negotiations during the international peace conference.

We hope this serious statement is only a political tactic dictated by certain international circumstances, especially after the U.S.-USSR summit conference. But if the statement is part of an effort to reach the international conference by route, the move raises certain possibilities and viewpoints that will make it an independent issue replete with contradictions and posing several questions.

The principle of negotiations in the PLO view and in accordance with the concept declared by the adviser of the Palestinian leader is unacceptable not only to the Israelis, but also to the Palestinians. Negotiations should take place between two equal sides and should lead to an agreement on balanced interests or rights. In the case of the Palestinians and the Israelis, this point appears to be very difficult, because the Israeli side basically refuses to recognize Palestinian rights or allow anyone to share land or privileges with it. How, then, can we get it to sit with an organization, which it describes as terrorist while denying that it represents the Palestinian people, the owners of the land and the side with a right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state?

What did we leave to Anwar al-Sadat? And why did we attack him and kill him? The man negotiated with the Israelis to regain Sinai, while other sides are trying to do the same through other channels that will also lead to Jerusalem.

Any Palestinian interest in negotiating with Shamir will mean there is no longer any need for the uprising. There is no use in entering into conflicts with the Israelis and Americans as long as the goal is to reach the international conference at any cost and by any route. Any PLO move to abandon principles and depart from its long-standing path will trigger conflicts among Palestinian factions and organizations, a goal being sought by Israel by all means and temptations. This is on the Palestinian level.

But on the Arab level, particularly with regard to Egypt, which is still boycotted although it actually has left the Camp David circle, announcing that the accords reached at the end of the 1970's are no longer useful and have been superseded by events, we wonder: Why do the Arab countries continue their official boycott of it? Egypt's proposals during Al-Sadat's reign do not greatly differ from the new Palestinian proposals, unless there are secrets we do not know and no one wants to disclose.

Finally, such hasty statements will never lead to the international conference, because the way to it is full of obstacles and difficulties. It is better for us to adhere to principles and avoid and resist temptations, pending more obvious and suitable circumstances.

Oman

Richard Murphy Arrives, Holds Talks 21 Jun

JN2106140988 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] The Omani side led by His Highness Haytham ibn Tariq ibn Taymur, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs, and the U.S. side led by Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, who is currently visiting the Sultanate, held a round of official periodic talks at the Foreign Ministry this morning. During this session, they discussed relations between the two friendly countries and ways to promtoe cooperation in the various areas.

The Omani and the U.S. sides also reviewed a number of issues of common interest in the Gulf, Arab, and international arenas, foremost of which are the situation in the Arabian Gulf, developments in the Iraq-Iran war, efforts to give momentum to the Middle East peace process, and the results of the extraordinary Arab summit in Algiers regarding the Palestine question.

The two sides also discussed developments in the Afghan issue. Richard Murphy briefed the Omani side on the deliberations of the recent Moscow summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev regarding the Middle East issue, the Iraq-Iran war, and the region's issues in particular.

The session was aattended on the Omani side by Ambassador Salim ibn Hasan Makki, head of the International Conferences and Organizations Department; Ambassador 'Abdallah ibn 'Ali al-Najjar, head of the European Department; and a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials. On the U.S. side, it was attended by the U.S. ambassador to the Sultanate and the members of the U.S. delegation.

Richard Murphy arrived in the country this morning as part of his tour of the region.

U.S. Military Commander, Delegation Leave 21 Jun

JN2106152788 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] General George Crist, head of the U.S. Central Command, and his accompanying military delegation left the country this morning after a visit to the Sultanate, during which he was honored by his meeting with His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id. The guest also met with Al-Mutasim ibn Hamud Al Bu Sa'id, minister of state for defense affairs, and a number of senior Defense Ministry officials. He also visited a number of military installations in the sultan's Armed Forces.

The U.S. military official's visit to the Sultanate came at the invitation of Al-Mutasim ibn Hamud Al Bu Sa'id, minister of state for defense affairs. The guest was seen off at the airport by Staff General Hamid ibn Sa'id al-'Awfi, chief of staff of the sultan's Armed Forces; his excellency the U.S. ambassador to the Sultanate; Staff Major General 'Abd al-'Alim ibn Mustahil al-Khuyul, head of the Adminsitration and Procurement Department at the Defense Ministry; Staff Maj Gen Hamid ibn Humayd al-Kalbani, commander of the Omani Ground Forces; and a number of senior officers and officials of the Defense Ministry.

Al-'Alawi on PLO Office, PDRY, Gulf War

JN2006180388 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 19 Jun 88 pp 1, 17

[Shakir al-Jawahiri dispatch from Algiers]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In an exclusive statement to AL-SIYASAH, Yusuf ibn al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, said that the recognition of UN Security Council Resolution No 242 is an issue that concerns the PLO. However, he added that this resolution might be one means that can help find a just solution to the Palestine question. He denied that the extraordinary Arab summit discussed the Shultz initiative, because, in its unfinalized state, it is still a topic for consultations. He ruled out the possibility of the United States pursuing a policy on the Palestine question in complete harmony with that of the Arabs. He also called on Washington to render its policy based on justice and equity. [passage omitted]

In the beginning of the interview, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs declined either to deny or confirm the veracity of reports circulated to the effect that the Sultanate of Oman agreed to allow a PLO office to operate in Muscat.

Yusuf ibn al-'Alawi told AL-SIYASAH that the issue of opening a PLO office in the Sultanate of Oman is not basic. He added it is not a problem in bilateral relations. He went on to say that one's stands and attitudes are not governed or determined by the existence of certain appearances or manifestations, especially if the issue concerned is the Palestine question.

Referring to the two meetings on the sidelines of the extraordinary Arab Algiers summit between PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and the sultan's special representative, who was heading the Omani delegation, the Omani minister said: This was not the first time that contact has been made with the Palestinian side. Such contacts are usually held at conferences. He added that the meetings were held within the framework of consultations on issues listed on the summit's agenda. He went on to say that these issues are esssential and basic. He said: There are no differences on the provision of Arab support for such issues. The means of providing this support are usually a topic for consultations among brothers.

Al-'Alawi added: Man loses nothing by consultations and there is a proverb that consultations are more important than the courage of brave men. [passage omitted]

On relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the PDRY, Al-'Alawi said they are developed. He added: We and PDRY officials seek to further develop these relations. We believe that we have taken satisfactory strides in this direction. Ties of strong cooperation bind the two fraternal peoples. Our endeavors in this regard are guided by the belief that any step taken must be well studied and useful to both states. We exchanged visits by delegations covering the activities which, in our opinion, constitute common denominators between us. There will be further visits and meetings in the future. He added: The most important thing characterizing our relations with the PDRY is that they are developing out of the limelight and the excitement. We are satisfied with this. I am sure that PDRY officials are also satisfied with the way in which our relations with them are being developed.

He said that the technical committee formed to resolve the border disputes between the two countries is still working in this regard. He added that the committee will be given sufficient time until identical views and opinions are reached on the issue. He went on to say that the committee is a technical one but formed by a political decision.

In reply to a question regarding the change in Oman's firm stand toward the Iraqi-Iran war — the change which brought about a flexible Omani stand toward Iran— the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs denied such a change. He added: Our stand has not changed since the beginning of the war. We call upon the neighboring states which are engaged in wars to resort to wisdom and dialogue in their relations instead of resorting to other means.

Al-'Alawi went on to say: Our relations with Iran have always been based on the fact that we live in the same region and they have always been governed by the factors of geographic proximity and common interests. We have always sought to entrench the logic of dialogue and good neighborliness. This was our way of dealing with Iran in the shah's era and it has not changed in the revolution era. We will continue to pursue the same objectives in the future. He said: We view the Iran-Iraq war as a calamity plaguing the Islamic and Arabic nations as well as the region's states. Besides, the two warring states are bound together through strong ties that go back to old history. He added: We have always stressed the need to see Iraq and Iran maintain ties of amity based on good neighborliness and useful cooperation. This stand of ours has remained unchanged. [passage omitted]

The Omani minister said that he was not aware of the perspective that Iran's vision of peace and stability in the region is based on its occupation of Iraq and also on bringing about a decisive military settlement of the war in its favor. He added: I know that the two warring states do not covet each other's territory. The borders between the two states are well-known and documented. The differing views and stands on how to coexist with each other can be resolved through many ways and means. Foremost among these are the UN endeavors provided for in UN Security Council Resolution 598 as well as entrusting the UN secretary general to draw up a plan for implementing the said resolution.

On his perception of the role which Oman might play to end this war, he said: We are eager to make our positive contributions toward resolving this issue. These contributions might take the form of working to end the state of war and overcome the difficulties, problems, and tragedies which were caused by this war. This would enable us to see Iraq and Iran become two friendly countries once again, bound by strong spiritual, religious, and fraternal ties.

United Arab Emirates

Al-Shariqah Ruler Denies $1.3 Billion Debt

PM2106135188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jun 88 pp 1, 2

[Nasr al-Majali report: "Ruler of Al-Shariqah Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Political Situation Excellent and Economic Situation Fabulous"]

[Excerpts] Tomorrow is the 1st anniversary of the crisis that faced the Emirate of Al-Shariqah, namely, the power struggle between Dr Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, the actual ruler, and his brother Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, who is now the heir apparent and deputy ruler under the settlement reached to ease the situation and end the crisis. Dr Shaykh Sultan yesterday emphasized over the telephone to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the situation is stable, everything is calm, and matters are proceeding in a normal and positive way in the interests of the Emirate of Al-Shariqah and its people in order to keep the emirates' union strong.

The ruler of Al-Shariqah and UAE Supreme Council member was replying to press reports saying that "a year after the crisis everything in Al-Shariqah is calm enough on the surface but rivalry among members of the ruling family continues."

The ruler of Al-Shariqah confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "our political and economic situation is both good and comfortable, and our projects are being implemented both carefully and efficiently."

This is an implicit retort to a REUTER report that "Al-Shariqah's debts total 1.3 billion dollars, which is a burden preventing the emirate from achieving an economic upsurge." The report adds: These debts are still a bone of contention between Shaykh Sultan and his elder brother Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz, the heir apparent and his deputy. [Passage omitted]

A reliable source among the court of Al-Shariqah's ruler told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Al-Shariqah Government is continuing its efforts to iron out economic

obstacles and end the crisis: This year the government bought part of the share of the American company AMOCO, which is prospecting for oil in Al-Shariqah Emirate, for $120 million. This means that, given present prices, the income will double. [Passage omitted]

The source, who maintains a strong relationship with the ruler of Al-Shariqah, talked about the question of debts, which were said to total $1.3 billion: First, such talk is totally untrue. Second, all banks know our good position, which is improving. We finance all economic projects. Our country is prosperous, praise God. Every penny is spent in the right place. [passage omitted]

The source added: The reports on Al-Shariqah are nothing but cheap conspiratorial talk. The situation is both secure and reassuring. The estrangement between Shaykh Sultan, the ruler, and his brother 'Abd al-'Aziz, the heir apparent, has ended, praise be to God.

It is known that most of Al-Shariqah's debts are owed to local banks, including the Al-Shariqah National Bank, in which the government has a 30 percent share.

The source concluded his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by saying that debts owed to foreign banks have been rescheduled over 5 years. We are continuing to settle our payments to the creditor banks and most of the loans will be paid off within 2 or 3 years. He said: But I can say that the figure referred to in the report, that is, $1.3 billion, is incorrect. [passage omitted]

Information Minister on Arab Arms Production
PM2106092788 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 17 Jun 88 p 25

[Unattributed interview with Information Minister Shaykh Ahmad ibn Hamid in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] UAE Information Minister Shaykh Ahmad ibn Hamid Al Nuhayyan has been visiting Egypt and has signed an agreement with Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif for implementing a program of informational cooperation between the two countries. AL-HAWADITH met with him in Cairo and conducted the following interview:

AL-HAWADITH: Certainly, 8 years after the Iraq-Iran war broke out, it is still threatening security in the Gulf. Do you believe it possible that this year could witness an end to the war?

Ibn Hamid: The Iraq-Iran war is a real tragedy swallowing up the material and human resources of two neighboring Muslim countries. The war has had adverse effects threatening the region's security and stability. It has led to the big powers' interfering in the region. The continuation of the war is a big mistake and it has had a painful impact on every Arab and Muslim. Therefore, together with the peoples of the region, indeed the peoples of the world, we long for the day when the war is brought to an end, in order to spare lives and reestablish peace and harmony in the Arabian Gulf region so that it is no longer a field for international conflict and a stage for sabotage and destruction. The UAE calls on the brothers in Iran to turn to wisdom and the Islamic spirit and respond to UN resolutions and the resolutions adopted by other international organizations, which call for ending the war and establishing peace in the region. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Special plans have been presented recently to establish peace in the Middle East region, and they include the Shultz plan. What is the UAE's stand regarding this plan? And, in your opinion, is there any possibility of an international conference being convened, especially after the Americans and the Soviets have agreed on convening it?

Ibn Hamid: In his efforts to reach a solution to the Palestinian problem [UAE President] Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has urged the United States on more than one occasion to take a firm stand on recovering the owners' rights for them. The Arabs expect the United States to adopt a stand now, since this would serve both U.S. interests and the interests of the region. This is because, if the rights are not restored to their owners, the Arab states will have no other option than to confront Israel. His highness the state president informed Vernon Walters, U.S. representative to the United Nations and President Reagan's envoy, of this during his recent visit to the UAE.

AL-HAWADITH: It is reported that contacts are being made to revive the Arab presence in the Arab Industrialization Organization. The UAE, as is known, is one of the organization's founders. It recently hosted an exhibition for Egyptian military production, including the organization's own products. What is the UAE's position on the resumption of such coordination?

Ibn Hamid: In this regard I would recall the statement made by His Highness Shaykh Zayid, president of our state, namely that no Arab faithful to his pan-Arabism could doubt that the Arab Industrialization Organization deserves both support and backing in all the fields it is operating in. And the military products he saw in Egypt are a source of pride for every Arab. Arms that we used to obtain from others are now available to our brothers and sons. The UAE's conviction was explained by Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, heir apparent and deputy commander in chief of the UAE Armed Forces. He said that the Arab nation, which seeks to build its own force, cannot build such a force by relying on others.

Therefore, supporting the Egyptian war industry is essential because it is the first correct step toward liberating ourselves from the monopoly held by foreign arms, which we manage to obtain sometimes and fail to obtain at other times. The UAE Armed Forces use numerous types of advanced Egyptian arms which have proved highly efficient. For this reason, we believe that

the Arab military industry, in which Egypt plays a fundamental role, no longer represents a political luxury or a secondary objective, especially in view of the present situation. It is an urgent pan-Arab and defense need. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: There are fears that the extensive presence of foreign fleets in Gulf waters could turn the region into an arena for international conflicts. What is your opinion of such a presence?

Ibn Hamid: We do not accept the presence of foreign fleets in the Gulf region. We want the Gulf to be left for its own people and remain a secure international waterway important to the international economy. Indeed, we believe that the presence of these fleets has not helped achieve stability or protect commercial vessels and freedom of navigation. But at the same time we emphasize that the war is still the main problem, and it must be stopped. And if the war stops, its complications will disappear and the Gulf will return to the state we want, as an oasis of security and a lake of stability and peace.

Ba'th Party Urges Implementation of Resolution 598

JN1806114388 Baghdad iNA in English 1130 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, June 18, INA—National Command of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party (ABSP) has urged Arab and foreign parties as well as secretary-general of the United Nations to implement Security Council Resolution No 598 in its sequential order.

In messages addressed to more than 100 Arab and foreign parties, Foreign Relations Bureau at the National Command of the (ABSP) appealed to initiate a global campaign to establish peace and carry out the resolution.

The messages referred to the international popular conference on peace, held in the Iraqi capital last May, considering it the biggest global demonstration that appreciated Iraq's stance in response to international peace resolutions and initiatives.

The conference deplored Iran's stand against peace and in favour of consistent war and aggression, the messages said.

In the message addressed to the secretary-general of the United Nations, the Foreign Relations Bureau expressed attitude of international and regional parties and organizations that had taken part in the Baghdad conference on peace.

Those parties and organizations requested that Security Council Resolution No 598 be implemented and that pressure be placed on Iran to compel it to bow to will of the international community, establish peace and end aggression, the message read.

Brazilian Envoy Arrives for Bilateral Talks

Conveys Message From Sarney

JN1806194588 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Brazilian President Jose Sarney on friendly bilateral relations and ways to develop them.

The Brazilian president's special envoy, Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima, Brazilian deputy foreign minister, conveyed the message to his excellency the president during a reception accorded to him by his excellency the president.

The meeting was attended by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, the president's secretary, and the Brazilian ambassador in Baghdad.

Meets With Ramadan

JN1906144888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jun (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, has met with Brazilian Deputy Foreign Minister Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima and his accompanying delegation.

The discussion during the meeting included a review of bilateral relations and ways to promote them, topics pertaining to economic, trade, and technical cooperation between the two countries in light of the meetings of the Iraqi-Brazilian joint committee, and the eagerness of both states to seek new areas of bilateral cooperation.

The Brazilian official praised Iraq's positive and serious stands on the international peace initiatives and reaffirmed his country's desire to establish peace and its efforts in international forums to achieve this objective.

Taha Yasin Ramadan emphasized that Iraq will continue to deal blows to the aggressor Iranians until they submit to the international consensus on peace.

The minister of trade, Muhammad Mahdi Salih, and the Brazilian ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Signs Cooperation Minutes

JN1906204088 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] Iraq and Brazil signed the minutes of bilateral cooperation tonight. The minutes provide for the promotion of relations of cooperation and for the increase of trade in a manner serving the two friendly peoples' interests.

Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih signed the minutes for Iraq while Deputy Foreign Minister Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima did so for Brazil.

Party Talks With Malian Delegation Begin

JN2106153688 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, June 21, INA—Party talks started here today between the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party and the Union Democratic People Party in Mali.

The party talks are aimed at promoting friendship and cooperation between the two countries in addition to reviewing regional and international issues of common concern.

The ABSP side to the talks was led by Mr 'Adnan Dawud Salman, deputy in charge of External Relations Bureau at the Party pan-Arab leadership while the Union Democratic People Party in Mali was chaired by Amara Danfaga, member of the Executive Central Bureau.

During the talks, head of the ABSP side reviewed dimensions of the Iranian aggression and plans to harm Iraq and its march led by President Saddam Husayn.

He stressed Iraq's keenness to implement Security Council Resolution No 598 according to sequence of its articles and in its capacity as an international will for stopping war and restoring peace.

Speaking during the talks, Mr Amara expressed his party's appreciation to Iraq's peaceful stances and sincere desire to end the war stressing that Mali calls for ending the war and follows up with concern Iraq's victories and its social and economic development.

The delegation of the Union Democratic People Party in Mali arrived here yesterday on a visit to Iraq.

King Fahd Congratulates President on Victories

JN1806101388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0952 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn this morning received a telephone call from his brother, His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, congratulating him on the recent victories achieved by our valiant soldiers in recapturing the heights in the Muhammad Rasul Allah operation.

The custodian of the two holy mosques reiterated Saudi Arabia's support for Iraq, the impregnable wall of the Arab nation in the face of the dangers of criminal Iranian aggression.

The president expressed to the custodian of the two holy mosques his pride in the honest, pan-Arab Saudi stand that is aware of the dangers surrounding the Arab nation.

His excellency said to the custodian of the two holy mosques during the telephone conversation: God willing, you will hear news that will please you, your brothers in Saudi Arabia, and its fraternal people.

Communique No 3,223 Details 20-21 Jun Combat

JN2106165288 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1605 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Communique No 3,223 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 21 June]

[Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. The combat activities carried out by the victorious Iraqi Armed Forces for last night and today were as follows:

1. Our Air Force carried out 84 combat missions to pound enemy positions, eliminate many of its troop concentrations, and destroy its weapons and equipment. Having flown these missions, our planes returned safely to base, God be praised.

2. Our helicopter gunships which are affiliated with the Army helicopter gunship force carried out 229 combat sorties today. They inflicted further losses on the enemy. They then returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

3. At 0856 [0456 GMT] today an enemy F-5 plane tried to approach the positions of one of our forward units in the I Special Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces. The men of the corps' air defense confronted the enemy plane and destroyed it with the help of God. It was seen falling in flames on enemy territory before our troops.

Blessed be you, O heroic men of our air defenses in the I Special Army Corps. God be praised for the victory that He granted us.

4. The following losses were inflicted on the enemy in the I Army Corps northern sector: six scoundrels killed; three vehicles destroyed; seven infantry positions and one machinegun position destroyed; one heavy machinegun position burned and destroyed and its crew killed; two ammunition dumps blown up; and two observation posts destroyed.

5. Seven enemy personnel were killed and one machinegun position and one observation post were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

6. One heavy machinegun and one infantry position were destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 June 1988

IDF Captures 4 'Terrorists' in S. Lebanon

TA2206081388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Following a 15-minute clash early this morning, the IDF captured four Palestinian terrorists who tried to infiltrate into Israel. There were no IDF casualties. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Nahal Brigade soldiers discovered a terrorist squad north of the security fence. After a chase and an exchange of gunfire, the four gave themselves up. Three were slightly wounded. Submachineguns, RPG launchers, explosives, and large quantities of other materiel were found in their possession.

Shamir on 'Terrorist' Incident, UK Move, Tabah

TA2206072188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by moderators Dan Shilon and Ya'el Dayan on 22 June—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Shilon] Good morning, Mr Prime Minister.

[Shamir] Good morning.

[Shilon] Over the past few days the terrorist organizations have been very active abroad in attempts to infiltrate into our territory. The latest incident, at least the latest to be made public, was the vehicle laden with arms found aboard the Greek vessel "Paloma" at Piraeus port before it sailed for Israel. Do you think the terrorist organizations have recently stepped up their attempts to carry out attacks inside Israel?

[Shamir] The attempts to harm Israel through terrorist operations are not a new phenomenon. They have not stopped for a single day in the past decade. The terrorist organizations are constantly trying to kill and destroy. But, I am pleased to say that the security forces operating abroad and in Israel fulfill their task excellently. They have no match in the whole world. They foil almost all these attempts, and are enormously successful.

[Shilon] Are you pleased with the level of cooperation between Israel and other countries in preventing terrorist operations? On the one hand, there is the successful cooperation with Greek intelligence, and on the other, there is the incident with the British, who early this week expelled an Israeli representative who dealt with such matters on their soil.

[Shamir] It is true that we cooperate with many countries, and it is natural that when there is cooperation between various countries there are sometimes misunderstandings and hitches. This happens.

[Dayan] Was there a regrettable mishap in Britain?

[Shamir] I would not say that Greece, for example, is friendlier to Israel than Britain. I would not say that under any circumstances. The Israeli security services cooperate with various other countries, and this cooperation is certainly important in thwarting infiltrations by terrorists and preventing terrorist successes.

[Shilon] There were reports that the British had ordered Israel to stop all Mosad activities on their soil months ago.

[Shamir] I cannot go into details. There are sometimes misunderstandings and hitches as I said before, but we usually overcome them, and if some still remain we will overcome them as well.

[Dayan] Mr Shamir, Eliyahu Kohen was murdered on Monday night at Moshav Sheqef, and yesterday the wave of arson and stonings inside the Green Line worsened. Today the inhabitants of the territories are being called on to burn and destroy agricultural produce. We were told not long along that the intifada [uprising] is waning. Was this an incorrect evaluation, or are the flames being fanned again?

[Shamir] Look, there is an aggressive wave of attacks against all of Israel. You referred to geographic areas. There is an aggressive wave, whether these are acts of murder or arson, against Jewish existence in all of Eretz Yisra'el.

[Dayan] The question is: What do we do? The fact that the intifada has crossed the Green Line—with a female soldier wounded by a stone thrown at a train near Netanya and firebombs thrown in Dizengoff Center—perhaps calls for a reevaluation?

[Shamir] This is not the first time that such things have happened. It certainly calls for a decision to upgrade all activities to fight this phenomenon. We cannot sit back and expect to rely on a political solution that will fall from heaven. The problem is not a territorial dispute which can be solved through territorial concessions. The problem is one of existence. There is a constant Arab threat, which is renewed from time to time, against Jewish existence in all of Eretz Yisra'el. We must confront this threat and overcome it. I believe we have the means to do it, but we must be aware of it. There is no other way.

[Shilon] Other people have reached different conclusions. Minister Sharon, a member of your party, is calling on you to fire Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for what he calls his inability to handle the intifada. How do you react to that demand?

[Shamir] Look, I usually try to maintain full national unity in the unity government on all security matters. There are differences between us on political matters, but up to now we have managed to maintain full unity on security issues, although criticism and differences are

possible. I try to make sure that the criticism and differences will not be based on political identification. A minister, Knesset member, or any civilian can level criticism and make a proposal which may or may not be accepted. What I want to prevent is a partisan political conflict on ongoing security matters. We have been successful in this so far, and I believe it is vital to Israel's security. Minister Sharon can propose what he thinks is necessary, just as others can make such proposals. It does not have to become the position of the person's party.

[Dayan] On the PRC missiles, which may be on their way to Syria, we and the Americans have voiced our concern. You said yesterday that we would not stand idly by if such a thing came about. How do we convert this concern into action?

[Shamir] It cannot be defined in one short sentence. There is a need for constant activity against the arming of hostile elements in this region with sophisticated dangerous weapons. We have been doing it over the years through political means and by preparing the appropriate answers to meet the hour of need. This effort is continuing.

[Shilon] Over the past few days there has been a renewed effort to solve the Tabah issue through a compromise between us and Egypt, but all reports say that Egypt almost certainly will be given sovereignty over this territory in the future. Do you still believe that Israel can achieve sovereignty?

[Shamir] My view has been clear all along. I always wanted the conciliation process. The Camp David Accords enabled us to do that.

[Dayan] What about your evaluation of the situation at present?

[Shamir] Well, I would not make a forecast at this time, but even now I am prepared for negotiations on a compromise. Everything published in our name was true. There have been Egyptian denials, but I will not go into that. I say that even today I prefer a compromise to awaiting the arbiters' ruling. I would not try to forecast the chances and speculate over the arbiters' ruling.

[Shilon] Will we accept any ruling by the arbiters?

[Shamir] I think we must not commit ourselves to any situation beforehand.

[Dayan] Do we not have to accept the ruling by the team of arbiters?

[Shamir] Usually we implement these kinds of decisions when they conform with the mandate given to a body. [passage omitted]

Peres on PLO Document, PRC Missiles, Summit

TA2106181288 Jerusalem Domestic Service English 1700 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the PLO document submitted to American officials calling for negotiations over the territories represents nothing new, and does not even merit a response. Speaking to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today, Peres said the reported sale of Chinese surface-to-surface missiles to Syria represents a serious danger to the region, and that Israel was in contact with other countries over the sale. More from reporter David Ze'ev.

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Talking to reporters afterwards, Foreign Minister Peres said: PLO officials have already denied the document means acceptance of the United Nations Resolution 242, which speaks of Israel's right to exist, and have denied agreeing to direct negotiations with Israel. Peres said that, in fact, the PLO showed a hardening of its positions at the Arab summit in Algiers.

[Peres] They have had an Arab gathering, to decide what? That there will be an imposing international conference? What do they think, that Israel will come to such a conference? Or to decide that Israel must evacuate all the territories, when the language of the resolution of the United Nations calls for a withdrawal from territories, but not necessarily all the territories? Who is going to listen to them? [end recording] [passage omitted]

Rabin Warns Arab Leaders on Use of Missiles

TA2106181488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin spoke today in Nahariyya. Mr Rabin believes that firebombs are not the main threat to Israel, the main threat is still from the outside. Yo'av Aviv reports from Nahariyya:

[Aviv] Minister of Defense Yitzhaq Rabin advised the leaders of the Arab countries against using chemical weapons and long-range missiles against Israel. According to Rabin, Israel has the means to strike a severe blow at the Arab countries. Rabin also said that in our region, missiles are not a new issue and the Arabs tend to use them because of the inferiority of their air forces.

[Begin Rabin recording] The Arab air forces have failed to reach civilian targets since the war of independence. Naturally, therefore, since they cannot rely on the capabilities of their air forces, their tendency is to turn toward surface-to-surface missiles. The Arab countries should be aware of the fact that Israel is prepared, both in terms of its offensive and defensive capabilities. Its rearguard is well prepared to face such an attack at any time. [end recording]

[Aviv] The defense minister spoke in Nahariyya where he received honorary citizenship on the occasion of the 3rd anniversary of the IDF's withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Rabin also said that the goal of peace for the Galilee has been achieved, and the external threat to Israel is still the major threat.

USSR's Gerasimov Discusses Emigration of Jews

TA2206053988 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Jun 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by 'Oded Granot, Sha'ul Ben-Hayim, Richard Arnold, and Ran Dagoni]

[Text] "The USSR has no issue with the Israeli Government's decision to compel Jews who receive exit visas to Israel to go only to that country," Gennadiy Gerasimov, the spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry, told MA'ARIV in a telephone conversation from Moscow.

The spokesman added in an ironic tone: "The only thing is that you create the impression that Israel is not very concerned about the human right to travel freely anywhere one wants. You know that this principle is anchored in the charter of the United Nations.

[MA'ARIV] The Israeli Government is interested in making sure that Jews emigrate to Israel.

[Gerasimov] If they are good enough to come to Israel, you should rely on their word that they will not cheat. Your decision constitutes the denial of a person's freedom of choice to travel any place he likes.

[MA'ARIV] In your opinion, how will this decision affect the exit of Jews from the USSR?

[Gerasimov] I fear that the numbers will continue to decline. Fewer and fewer Jews will request exist visas to Israel because they compare life in Israel in the wake of the Palestinian uprising and your weather to the good life in California. They will prefer California. You will then come again with complaints.

[MA'ARIV] But from your point of view, is the arrangement that Jews leave through Romania directly for Israel acceptable?

[Gerasimov] From our point of view it is okay. If a Jew receives an exit visa to Israel he can leave for Israel, and if he receives a visa to the United States he can leave for California.

[MA'ARIV] If that is the case, the remaining problem is to make sure that the Netherlands will not pose any obstacles and will issue the transit visas to Romania.

[Gerasimov] That is really your problem. You will have to discuss that with them. That is not our problem.

[MA'ARIV] Mr Gerasimov, the Israeli delegation to Moscow is expected to arrive next month.

[Gerasimov] So I hear. I think they are coming this time. [passage omitted]

Sinyurah Describes Scope, Objectives of Uprising

PM1406145588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jun 88 p 7

[Interview with Hanna Sinyurah, chief editor of Jerusalem-based AL-FAJR, by Mahir 'Uthman in London; date not given]

[Text] ['Uthman] How is the morale of the Palestinians in the occupied territories as the uprising enters its 7th month?

[Sinyurah] The Palestinian people in the occupied territories are determined to continue their uprising against the Israeli occupation and to establish it firmly so that it can achieve the desired objective, that is, opening the door to negotiations between the PLO and Israel at an international conference in the presence of all the parties concerned.

The Palestinian people have decided to rely as much as possible on their own resources in the face of all the pressures exerted by Israel to suppress the uprising.

The first 6-month phase has ended successfully. It has boosted the morale of our people. We will begin a new phase in the coming months to recover our inalienable rights, the most important of which are the right to self-determination and the right to build an independent Palestinian state.

['Uthman] In your opinion, what are the uprising's most important achievements so far?

[Sinyurah] The Palestinian masses have responded to the calls issued by the unified national command of the uprising. The trade strike continues in an organized manner. It reflects the economic sector's participation in fulfilling their national duty. Self-reliance has begun in the form of returning to the land to grow various kinds of crops. Even small gardens in towns are being cultivated in order to rely on local produce. The home economy has been intensified and strengthened, especially since it does not require a license from any authority. At the same time we began to look for alternatives to the occupation systems in the domains of education, health, etc. in order for the education and health sectors to perform their duties if government education and health facilities were interrupted. Innoculation and health enlightenment campaigns are now being maintained in the towns, villages, and camps of the occupied territories.

Our people realize they should abandon luxuries in a period like this, they only seek necessities. This approach enables our people to continue and strengthens their endurance. The uprising is strengthening the roots through independent planning within all frameworks. It is preparing the basic infrastructure of the future state. There are now popular committees in the camps, towns, and villages. They are mobilizing the people to confront all circumstances and resort to common action.

['Uthman] What is the popular response to the calls issued by the command of the uprising? And what form does it assume?

[Sinyurah] The calls issued recently included call 19, which was the only leaflet to freely reflect the Palestinian position and the Palestinian people's aspirations and inclinations since all our local papers are subject to military censorship and thus are unable to reflect the situation as it really is.

The Palestinian citizen responds to these calls and cooperates in implementing them because they are the means by which he expresses his rejection of the occupation and its continuation. Resistance against the occupation has strengthened through common action and cooperation among all Palestinian capabilities and organizations. This reflects the cooperation and unity displayed at the 18th PNC session held in Algiers last year. And we hope the same spirit will be displayed at the Arab summit now being held.

Six months of Palestinian cooperation and solidarity have led to this earthquake, not only in Israel, but at the level of world public opinion as well. Thus, the existence of common Arab solidarity would restore the Arabs' status at both the local and international level, lead to the elimination of the effects of the occupation in the Palestinian territories, and unite efforts to end the Gulf war. We are looking to this summit, hoping that it will not only back the uprising but emphasize all resolutions adopted at previous Arab summits regarding the representative of the Palestinian people and the PLO, and translate their will into action, not just words.

['Uthman] What is your interpretation of the fact that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is still continuing to present his plan and tour the region despite his failure to achieve any progress?

[Sinyurah] The impact of the uprising has not been confined to the local level or the occupied Palestinian territories. It has affected some parties in the Arab world and it seems that the United States considers its influence a threat to U.S. interests in the Arab world. That is why the U.S. secretary of state is working to contain such influence. The fact that he is still continuing his tours proves the extent of the uprising's impact on U.S. policy. But his failure, too, proves that the U.S. initiative does not contain the basic elements for a negotiated political settlement among the conflicting parties in the region, since it lacks an important basic element for a settlement—namely, recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Besides, his initiative makes no reference to the Palestinian people's aspirations to establish their own independent state. It also contains no role for the representative of the Palestinian people, the PLO. As long as these tours are devoid of these principles, there will be no credibility in any U.S. move in the region. But the thing that is required from the big powers, especially the Soviet and U.S. giants, is to make a joint Soviet-U.S. initiative so that the peoples of the region will feel that there is a serious move on the part of the two superpowers, not just a U.S. move to protect U.S. interests, and that there is a serious intention to secure a settlement respecting the rights of all parties.

['Uthman] The Palestinian workers in the occupied territories are boycotting work in Israel, but to what extent?

[Sinyurah] The Palestinian worker is the backbone of our steadfast people. He has made more sacrifices than anyone else during the long years of occupation. And he continues to perform his duty, including sacrificing his pure Palestinian blood. The calls issued to the Palestinian worker do not ask him to boycott work, the livelihood for him and his family. There are types of boycotts, for instance, boycotting work in Israeli settlements or with the occupation organs. But in order for the worker to escalate his boycott of the occupation, we must provide the basic support for him so that he can continue to stand fast on his homeland's territory and make sacrifices.

There are 120,000 Palestinian workers making a living from work inside Israel. We cannot ask them to stop working before the alternatives are prepared. That is why the Arab leaders meeting now in Algiers must think about ways to support the efforts of the local uprising in order to strengthen its roots by providing basic sustenance for these workers. There is an urgent need for material support in order to enable the worker to remain on his territory, and this will cost nearly 40 million dollars a month, about 500 million dollars a year, for the worker sector only. We are not talking here about other public services which have made great sacrifices during the uprising. For instance, restaurants have been closed during the uprising. Numerous other establishments have also been harmed. They all should be supported in order for them to play their role as they should.

We must support the Palestinian national economy in order to produce alternative commodities and goods instead of those invading the Palestinian markets. A complete plan must be drawn up taking into account all

the aspects of the uprising. This would, in turn, boost the morale of our people in the occupied territories, who are in the minds of the Arab world and have not been left in the lurch.

Torture Alleged at Janin Detention Center

TA2206105188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Jun 88 p 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Dvora Getzler]

[Excerpt] A Palestinian prisoner from the West Bank, who was in perfect health when he was arrested in February, is now paralysed and dumb because of beatings and torture he suffered while in detention, according to allegations contained in a letter sent yesterday to Defence Minister Rabin by MK [Knesset Member] Ran Kohen (Citizens Rights Movement).

The letter cites claims by the prisoners's family, which Kohen said he had investigated. There was no immediate response from the Defence Ministry, and an IDF spokeswoman declined to comment on the report.

According to the allegations, Mahmud Yusuf Zakarani, 22, was arrested on February 22 in Qabatiyah following the lynching of a local man who had allegedly worked for the Shin Bet. Zakarani was in perfect health at the time of his arrest.

He was initially held at an interrogation centre in Janin, and later transferred to a detention centre in Tulkarm. He arrived at Tulkarm with a spinal injury which left both his legs paralysed. He was also unable to speak.

In reply to a query from Kohen, prison authorities confirmed that Zakarani had not been in such condition at the time of his arrest.

According to Kohen's letter, the paralysis and speech loss were apparently the result of severe beatings and torture inflicted while Zakarani was at the Janin interrogation centre. [passage omitted]

Incidents Within Green Line Reported 21 Jun

TA2106170188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] A stone was thrown this morning at an Israeli car near Nes Ziyyona. The driver was not injured but the car's front windshield was damaged.

A stone was thrown this afternoon at a military vehicle on the Jerusalem highway near the Ganot junction. In this incident, too, only damage was done.

A thorn field near Ne'ot Margalit in the vicinity of Rishon Leziyyon was set on fire. Authorities located several foci in which the fire was started. The fire brigade is now dealing with the fire while security forces are looking for suspects.

Our correspondent Mordekhay Huller notes that no suspects have been detained in any of these incidents.

'Large' Explosive Device Dismantled in Beersheba

TA2206091888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] A large explosive device was discovered this morning at a soldiers' hitchhiking stop on the outskirts of Beersheba in the direction of Hebron. The bomb was dismantled without causing any harm. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that some 50 Arabs were detained for questioning. The discovery was made shortly after 0600 and the road was reopened to traffic some 20 minutes later.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

No Trial Set for Soldier

TA2106153988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] The Central Command's military advocate today decided not to try the soldier who shot and killed a girl from the village of Al-Ram 6 months ago.

Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the military police's investigation showed that the soldier's life was in danger. As he was chasing stone throwers, he discovered that he was alone, surrounded by the villagers. As a result, he was forced to shoot in the air. Several weeks ago, while in cadet school, the soldier lost his palm in a training accident. The military advocate took this fact into consideration and decided against putting him on trial.

Soldier, Jew, 3 Arabs Injured

TA2106182288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] A female soldier was injured near Netanya when stones were thrown at a passenger train. Our correspondent Mikha'el Huller reports that the stones were thrown at the train as it was travelling near Neve Yehoshu'a. The soldier, who was on the train, was injured and taken to Tel Hashomer hospital for treatment. Twenty-five men were arrested.

In the Old City of Jerusalem, four men were slightly wounded in a fight between Arab youths and a group of Kakh Movement members. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Kahane supporters noticed that a group of Arab youths were bothering a few Hasidim who were praying near the memorial monument for Yig'al 'Amedi [who was assassinated in Jerusalem about a year ago]. A fight broke out, leaving three Arabs and one Kakh member injured.

Update on Curfews 21 Jun

TA2106191388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Two Arabs were reportedly injured today in clashes in the territories. At the same time, eight locations in the territories are under curfew and three others have been closed off by the army. Steve Rodan has the story:

[Begin recording] The two injuries came during attacks on Israelis in northern Samaria. In Nabulus, an Israeli civilian driving through the city was pelted by stones. The Israeli fired into the air. Some time later, Al-Ittihad hospital in Nabulus reported that a 10-year-old Nabulus boy was being treated for a gunshot wound in the leg.

In the village of Burqa' an army patrol was attacked. The residents threw stones and blocked the main road. The patrol fired and a 16-year-old Arab was injured.

There were minor demonstrations reported in Bayt Sahur and in the Bi'r Zayt area. Arab sources reported that two United Nations schools were closed in the Al-Shu'fat refugee camp north of Jerusalem. The UN cannot be reached for comment.

Curfews remain imposed on numerous locations in the territories. That includes refugee camps at Janin, 'Anabta, Tulkarm, and Qalqilyah, as well as several Arab villages around Moshav Sheqef, where an Israeli farmer was stabbed and beaten to death.

There were no major incidents reported in the Gaza Strip. Curfews remain on the refugee camps of Al-Burayj and Khan Yunus, as well as Gaza City's 'Umar al-Mukhtar Street where a firebomb was thrown at an Israeli Army patrol injuring two soldiers. Military sources say Arab laborers left the Gaza Strip for their jobs in Israel this morning, and many stores were open. [end recording]

Al-Shati' Riot; Schools Closed

TA2106195688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] A resident of the Al-Shati' refugee camp was wounded at 2100 tonight, presumably by gunfire, as IDF troops were dispersing a riot in the camp. Disturbances took place tonight at the Al-Shati' camp. The security forces dispersed the rioters and the gathered onlookers. The wounded man was evacuated to Gaza's Al-Ahali hospital. The IDF is investigating the incident.

The Civilian Administration today closed down two Nabulus schools until Friday. The order was issued following numerous disturbances in which the schools' students took part. Civilian Administration officials told our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat that schools whose students participate in riots, and do not show any desire to attend classes, will be closed down.

Firebomb Thrown Near Ari'el

TA2206075888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] A female resident of Ari'el was wounded when stones and firebombs were thrown at the bus in which she was traveling from Tel Aviv to Ari'el near the village of Kifl Harith. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a group of Arab youths stood in the middle of the road and hurled stones at the vehicle's windshield. One stone smashed the windshield. The bus then skidded and drove into a ditch. A firebomb was then thrown at the bus. It hit one of the windows but did not land in the bus.

Nails were strewn on a road near Ari'el. The head of the local council Ron Nahman said it has been decided to double to eight the number of policemen at the Ari'el police station.

Firebomb Thrower Sentenced

TA2206104388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Louis 'Abd al-Rahman Khatib, a resident of the village of 'Ara who was convicted of throwing two firebombs at a bus carrying schoolchildren on the Wadi 'Ara road some 6 months ago, was given a 1-year jail sentence today. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that he was also given a 2-year suspended sentence and a 3,000 shekel fine.

Shots at Police Van in Gaza

TA2206104688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Two shots were fired at a police van in the center of Gaza today, but nobody was wounded. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a youth, aged about 25, fired shots from a revolver at the van, which was empty except for the driver. The driver and Chief Superintendent Yig'al Golan, the deputy commander of the Gaza district, who happened to be near the scene of the incident, noticed the assailant hiding in the yard of an abandoned house and chased him, but he escaped. Security forces are searching the area. There is a general strike in Gaza today.

Arab Helps Catch 'Terrorist'

TA2206104988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] An Israeli Arab has helped catch an Arab terrorist from the territories who was on his way to carry out an attack inside Israel. Reporter Hayim Hecht says the Israeli Arab spotted a stranger armed with a weapon and explosive charges last night and alerted security forces. The terrorist was caught while he was hiding in a field.

Farmers To Export Directly

TA1606105988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Jun 88 p 1

[Report by Judy Maltz]

[Text] The last obstacle blocking an agreement between Palestinian farmers and the Israeli authorities on the issue of direct agricultural exports from the territories has finally been settled, and initial shipments to Western Europe should begin this fall, a senior Agriculture Ministry official yesterday told THE JERUSALEM POST.

Tzvi Alon, who heads the interministerial committee charged with implementing the agreement, said that the Palestinian farmers have finally backed down from demands that their exports bear what is considered a politically-sensitive "produce of the West Bank" label. According to the agreement reached between Israel and the European Community on the matter, he said, these labels are only required to mention the names of the cities or towns where the produce is grown.

Other reliable sources last night told THE POST that the Jordanians have agreed to provide the Palestinian farmers with several million dollars to help them build an infrastructure for marketing their produce independently.

The interministerial committee has been negotiating with the Federation of Agricultural Marketing Cooperatives, which represents the majority of farmers in the territories, for the past several months, on the practical application of the agreement. The committee had made a commitment to grant licences for all shipments undertaken "in accordance with agreed-upon seasonal planning, which did not involve any special problems."

Last week, Khalid Kutab, secretary-general of the union, informed Alon that the Palestinian farmers had agreed to accept these terms and not press the issue of West Bank labels. Planning for next season should begin next month, according to Alon.

He estimated, however, that the Palestinian farmers would probably have difficulties initially in establishing ties with European buyers. He also suggested that the farmers may not be aware of how important high quality is in the European market.

"But we think this agreement is a very important step towards getting our own agricultural protocol with the EC ratified," Alon said. The European Parliament voted in March against the protocol, which provides for the reduction of duties on agricultural exports to the EC, in protest over Israeli policy in the territories. Alon said he believed a vote would be taken again in September.

Granot Reelected MAPAM Secretary General

TA1606110988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Jun 88 p 2

[Text] Tel Aviv (ITIM)—MAPAM Secretary General El'azar Granot was reelected by a large majority at the party's central committee meeting here yesterday.

MK [Knesset Member] Ya'ir Tzaban also won a large majority in his bid to compete on MAPAM's Knesset list after receiving special permission to run for a third term in the Knesset.

At the meeting, the party also decided that its list of candidates for the Knesset would be composed according to the following order of constituencies: 1) urban; 2) kibbutz; 3) Arab sector; 4) women; 5) open to competition between urban and kibbutz; 6) loser of previous; 7) representative of MAPAM workers committee; 8-10) open contest.

Editorial Affirms Uprising 'Stronger Than Ever'

TA1606170688 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Jun 88 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "The Intifadah's Future"]

[Text] Israel's leaders, in their various inclinations and affiliations, have been busy recently disseminating reports that the flame of the intifadah has died down and that the situation is becoming entirely calm. They support these claims with a series of illusory notions on a weakening of the residents' resolve and exhaustion of their patience from the perpetuation of the intifadah.

In less than a week, however, these leaders discovered that their claims and statements were no more than confused dreams. The intifadah is entering its 7th month stronger than ever and more persistent in achieving its objectives and satisfying the hopes and aspirations of the masses who breathe life into it. Through these masses, the intifadah opens the way for building a great future not only for the Palestinian people but for the entire Arab nation.

Yesterday, in keeping with the heated campaign that Israel's leaders are waging against the intifadah and its lofty objectives, Israeli Chief of Staff Dan Shomron noted that the continuity of the intifadah will depend on the extent of Arab support for it.

Although we agree with Shomron that Arab support for the intifadah constitutes an important element in its evolution and continuity, lack of Arab support—which, after all, was absent before and throughout the intifadah—cannot possibly stop it. This is because the intifadah, which began last December, was not created by the Arab's, although it has always required Arab nurturing. The last 6 months have proven the intifadah's capability to move forward strongly toward the achievement of its goals, even without Arab support.

Contrary to his colleagues in the ruling military establishment, Shomron acknowledged that the intifadah is witnessing a new escalation and a grave development to which Israel had not been accustomed. This is what forced him to raise a warning signal, emphasizing the need to face this dangerous escalation.

Shomron and other commanders of the Israeli military establishment search for new methods to confront the most recent wave of the intifadah, and squander large sums of money buying new kinds of rubber bullets and tear gas canisters, as well as other instruments of death, annihilation , and destruction. Instead, they should face reality and stop this vicious obstinacy which leads to further incidents that will only cease when the Palestinian people have gained their full legitimate rights and have established their own independent state.

The residents of the occupied territories have chosen their path and have specified their future plans. They are determined to fulfill their objectives irrespective of whether their kinfolk withhold support or their enemies effectively suppress and silence them.

AL-RA'Y Criticizes Murphy's Statements

JN2206064888 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
22 Jun 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The Same Words And The Same Stand"]

[Text] On every leg of his tour, Richard Murphy was eager to assert that U.S. efforts to achieve peace in the region and U.S. efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war are continuing. Perhaps U.S. officials have said such words thousands of times, and toured the region hundreds of times, and were content with the statements they made at the end of each tour and prior to every subsequent tour.

In Abu Dhabi, Mr Murphy declared that convening an international peace conference in the Middle East as soon as possible will help initiate negotiations between the disputing parties. The U.S. official added that fixing a date for convening the conference depends on those parties.

He then added that the conference is merely a means to begin negotiations. It would not require a great deal of effort for the observer to realize that the United States is still maintaining the same stand which in the past hampered the convening of an international conference and which is now trying hard to hinder it.

Thus the U.S. and Zionist stands are identical in attempting to divest the conference idea of its essence, and in seeking to turn the conference into a mere umbrella for direct negotiations over nothing. The U.S. and Zionist sides want to put international legality and its resolutions and principles behind their back, while at the same time they also want to obtain, by sidestepping that international legality, Arab recognition of occupation, expansion, and a free hand in the region.

U.S. talk about the Middle East crisis has not changed at all. It is based on a consistent stand that divests the crisis of its crux, namely the Palestine question. It is a stand that seeks to bring about a settlement between the Israeli entity and the Arabs and does not include withdrawal from the occupied territories nor acknowledgmeent of the Palestinian national rights, a settlement that includes Arab acquiescence to aggression, occupation, and hegemony.

Thus Murphy will return to Washington and another official will come after him and will repeat the U.S. words and statements that are said every time, and the only reaction he will find to such statements will be the Arab stand that calls for an international conference that achieves peace by bringing about justice and stability through complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory. Anything else is an illusion. We hope that Washington will realize, just as the international community has realized, that it will be difficult to turn a dream into a reality that achieves for the Zionist enemy his expansionist ambitions and plans of aggression.

Israel Creating 'Hysterical Storm' Over Missiles

JN2106083388 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
21 Jun 88 p 1, 17

[Editorial: "A New Israeli Tempest"]

[Text] There is a strong contradiction in the storm of words now being spoken by Israel over the possibility of fraternal Syria's acquisition of Chinese medium-range missiles. This is especially the case since it comes from Tel Aviv authorities, who have developed missiles with longer range, built up a nuclear arsenal, and stockpiled weapons beyond any normal defense needs.

This is not the first time Israel has stirred up such a strong, hysterical storm. Only a few weeks ago, it created a big uproar about fraternal Saudi Arabia possessing similar missiles. Israel, at that time, threatened to destroy these missiles if Saudi Arabia did not dismantle them.

Once again, Israel is repeating the same false uproar over news reports from an American journalist on the possibility of Syria being supplied with such missiles. The Israeli prime minister himself went to the extent of threatening and alarming everyone about the dangers of these weapons which, according to his claims, have tilted the balance of power in the Middle East.

Therefore, we believe that Israel's threats against fraternal Syria could be a prelude to a premeditated attack against what Israeli leaders see as growing Syrian military power. Proof of this is the increasing talk about the enemy's preparations for possible chemical warfare which is being propagated by all Israeli intelligence services.

Thus, we see Israel's verbal din against fraternal Syria for unfounded reasons as something which ought to reveal more than one warning signal of the aggressive expansionist intentions of Israeli leaders. This could be an attempt to avoid the dilemma which the uprising has placed them in, whether to divert attention from its events or to cover up hysterical measures it may take under the guise of war reguirements and security needs.

TIMES Comments on Statement by Abu Sharif

JN1906111188 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
19 Jun 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Anybody There?"]

[Text] It is not easy to draw lessons from the mini flurry of interest in Washington about the recent statement by Mr Bassam Abu Sharif, senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, on prospects for a negotiated Arab-Israeli peace settlement based on Israeli and Palestinian states living side by side. We have always felt that more clarity from the Arab side on the possibility of a negotiated settlement would help achieve such a settlement.

But we are also convinced that even if the Arabs were more clear about their peaceful intentions, the Israelis and the Americans would probably find new obstacles to place in the way of a solution which was based on the Palestinian right to national self-determination. We'd be delighted to be proven wrong.

Nevertheless, the PLO does well to communicate to Western audiences its vision of a Middle East blessed with justice, peace and tranquility. The key dynamic in such a situation, we feel, is the nature and extent of American reciprocity. We don't expect Israelis to leap up and run for the negotiating table. But we do expect the American government to respond actively and constructively if, while it seeks to play the mediator's role, one of the protagonists proposes a process of justice and reconciliation which could lead to a stable peace.

The peace-making effort will not succeed in one fell swoop. It will come in small, incremental steps, building upon one another until there is sufficient confidence for the protagonists to take the final leap forward. Mr Abu Sharif—presumably representing the thoughts of his boss and of the PLO majority—has taken just such a step.

He has articulated with some clarity a position that the PLO and the Arab states have always preferred to convey in slightly more cryptic terms. We anxiously await a response from Washington, or from Israel. Will we hear voices from there which speak of Israelis, Palestinians and other Arabs living in peace and with equal rights? We're listening.

Minister of Agriculture Signs Agreement with Iraq

JN1806071088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Jun 88 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA, J.T.)—Iraqi Minister of Agriculture Karim Hasan Rida has concluded his five-day official visit to Jordan by signing a memorandum of understanding, paving the way for greater cooperation between Jordan and Iraq in agricultural affairs.

Rida held talks with his Jordanian counterpart Marwan al-Humud and toured a number of agricultural projects in the Jordan Valley and other parts of the kingdom.

The Iraqi minister said in a statement that his country was keen on benefitting from Jordan's experiments in certain agricultural techniques such as drip irrigation and plasticulture. Al-Humud said that Jordan wanted to further strengthen its ties with Iraq in agricultural affairs and to speed up the process of economic integration among Arab countries.

He said that meetings between officials from both sides will continue to explore new areas for joint cooperation in agriculture.

The memorandum provides for an exchange of expertise and cooperation in research work and visits by specialists to promote bilateral cooperation.

It calls for an increase in cooperation in means to combat animal diseases, to set up a data bank to provide information on water, irrigation and marketing of agricultural products and to launch joint ventures that can contribute towards agricultural integration between Iraq and Jordan.

According to the memorandum, Iraq will increase its imports of Jordanian feed concentrates for poultry, and Jordan will continue to import Iraqi barley and bran and study the prospect to increase its imports of Iraqi dates.

The memorandum stressed the two countries' determination to promote their cooperation in promoting animal husbandry, to increase consultation and exchanges of veterinary vaccines and the use of treated water for irrigation.

The two sides also pledged to maintain their cooperation to implement agricultural projects at the Hammad Basin region near their common border, conduct feasibility studies on irrigation schemes in that district and initiate fisheries.

They decided to speed up work to set up a pesticides plant through the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Industry Company, to cooperate in protecting the environment, creating wild-life reserves and giving priority to one another in the importation of each others products.

Car Bomb Explodes in East Beirut; 10 Injured

NC2206083488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0821 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] A booby-trapped car exploded in the Al-Badawi area near the Al-Shuwayri-Al-'Aramuni tire shop at 1045 today. The explosion caused fires in the area, which the fire services have been trying to put out.

According to preliminary reports, 10 citizens were injured and taken to Al-Ju'aytawi Hospital. The explosive charge has been estimated at 20 kg of TNT. We are expecting a report from a military expert and from our correspondents who have rushed to the scene.

UK Paper Cited on Location of Western Hostages

LD2206005588 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0038 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Syrian intelligence officers are convinced they have found the 15 Western kidnap victims held captive in Beirut, according to a report in tomorrow's THE INDEPENDENT newspaper.

The unconfirmed report says the hostages are being held together by Iranian-backed Hizballah extremists in an area no bigger than 1,000 yards square inside the Hay Madi barracks in Beirut's southern suburbs.

But despite the fresh evidence, which comes from Amal guerrillas as well as tip-offs and observation, there is still no prospect of liberating the captives by force.

THE INDEPENDENT report says: "Fresh negotiations with the Iranian-backed Hizballah kidnappers are still needed if Terry Waite, John McCarthy and Brian Keenan and the other captives are to be extricated alive."

Meanwhile, a four-man parliamentary group who were flown to Iran on Sunday — "on a fact-finding mission"—are to return to Britain tomorrow.

And the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, who arranged the delegation's visit said he expected to hear about their "fact-finding tour".

He arranged the visit of Tory MPs Cyril Towsend and Robert Hicks, Labour MP Tom Clarke and SLD peer Lord Tordoff after he learned "the Iranians would welcome a parliamentary delegation".

A senior Iranian official was quoted by the Iranian news agency IRNA tonight as saying that relations with Britain could return to their previous level.

'Ali-Reza Mo'ayeri, political deputy of Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, pledged that Iran would ask its friends in Lebanon to help locate the British hostages held in Beirut provided that London would take steps towards helping the release of Iranian hostages in Lebanon.

Mo'ayeri, who was speaking in a meeting with the four visiting British MPs, repeated however that Iran would not interfere in domestic affairs of other countries, including Lebanon.

He hoped that future policies in Britain on the Iraq-Iran war, the use of chemical weapons and Persian Gulf developments, would eliminate obstacles in the way of improvement of mutual Tehran-London ties.

The British MPs have so far met a number of Iranian officials and an Iraqi opposition leader, said the agency.

Israeli Planes Fly Over Camps in South

NC2106181988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew reconnaissance missions over 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah camps between 1940 and 2010 this evening. They were confronted with antiaircraft fire.

'Ferocious' Fighting Subsides After Cease-Fire

NC2106195388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Clashes in Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps between pro-'Arafat and dissident Palestinians subsided at around 2015 today after the follow-up committee succeeded in establishing a cease-fire agreement.

Today saw the most ferocious fighting since the inter-Palestinian clashes began 2 months ago. In today's clashes 5 Lebanese and 4 Palestinians died and 34 others were wounded in the two camps, the areas surrounding them, and southern Beirut.

A Fatah spokesman has announced that the four Palestinians died in heavy artillery bombardment from the dissidents' emplacements around Shatila. He also said that nine Palestinians were injured in numerous ground attacks.

A spokesman for the dissidents announced that four of his group and two members of Ahmad Jibril's PFLP-GC were injured during an attack launched by pro-'Arafat forces against a position held by the PFLP-GC near Shatila.

Syrian Casualties in Two Explosions Reported

NC2206073688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] According to reports from Al-Biqa', two explosions were targeted against Syrian troops in the Al-Biqa'

plain at 0340 today. The first occured in a fuel station at the Firzal crossroads, killing and wounding a number of persons.

Among the injured were Syrian Sergeant Major Nayif Jurayrah and Syrian soldier 'Ayid Khalaf, who were taken to the Al-Sayyidah Hospital in Firzal.

The second explosion took place in the vicinity of a roadblock manned by Syrian special forces at the Darzaynun crossroads. A number of persons were wounded.

PFLP Claims Attempt To Infiltrate Into Israel

NC2206100588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] The PFLP, led by George Habash, has claimed responsibility for the attempt to infiltrate into Israeli territory at dawn today.

An Israeli military source said that Israeli forces at dawn today captured four armed men who were trying to infiltrate into Israel. The source added that two of the gunmen were wounded in a clash with the Israeli forces as they tried to cross the Al-Wazzani River.

Former Lebanese President Arrives in Damascus

JN2206135688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Damascus—Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah arrived in Damascus this morning with his son Robert Franjiyah. He was met at the southern entrance of Damascus by Wahib Fadil, minister of state for presidential affairs. After President Franjiyah reviewed the guard of honor, he headed to the Guest Palace in Damascus where he will be residing.

President Franjiyah made a statement to a SANA correspondent in which he affirmed the importance of the Syrian role in establishing and spreading peace in Lebanon. He said: We thank God that in areas where Syrian forces are present there are no security violations. Their presence provides tranquillity and security to all citizens.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN2206135888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] At 1215 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah and his son Robert Franjiyah.

Al-Shar' Discusses Ties With Hungarian Official

JN2106132288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received Jozsef Gyorke, deputy director of the International Relations Department at the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, in the presence of Dr Jabr al-Kafri, director of the East European Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the Hungarian ambassador in Damascus.

The talks dealt with ways to develop existing bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation. They also reviewed the international situation and the current situation in the region.

People's Assembly Examines 'Waste Shipment'

JN1906072388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Excerpts] The People's Assembly will resume its meetings at 1800 today. The assembly held a session yesterday evening under Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah. Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for services affairs, and other ministers attended the session. The Assembly discussed the ad hoc committee's report on investigations of the complaint lodged by Harasta citizens against establishment of a train maintenance station on their agricultural and wooded land. [passage omitted]

Eng Yusuf al-Ahmad, minister of transportation and head of the ministerial committee, spoke about the waste shipment and about government investigations conducted through committees formed for this purpose.

The minister began by explaining in detail how the shipment reached the port of Tartus, how its contents were discovered, and measures the competent bodies had taken to examine them, pinpoint their type, and assess how much harm they could cause. The minister also referred to measures taken to arrest several persons who have shown a neglect of duty or who were suspected of involvement, to prosecute the others, and to take to account all those who are later proven to have any connection.

The minister affirmed that laboratory and scientific tests, whether at the Nuclear Energy Commission, the Scientific Research and Studies Center, or the chemistry laboratories, have confirmed that the waste shipment has had no harmful effects either on Tartus Port, our territorial waters, our shores and coasts, or in any place in our country.

The minister said that all that is being reported to the contrary is meant to harm our country and falls within the mad campaign being waged against our steadfast country which is emerging from certain economic difficulties it recently experienced and has overcome them thanks to directives of the president leader and government measures in this respect.

He added that after examining all documents in Tartus Port and in the other ports, as well as in all the country's land and sea entrances, it was confirmed that there had been no previous shipment of this type into the country.

The People's Assembly speaker commented on the transportation minister's statement by stressing that all citizens must be given the true picture regarding the waste shipment and any other topic that could be the subject of tendentious rumors that seek to harm our country, its steadfastness, and its progressive march, or that could obscure facts and confuse citizens with imaginary issues that preoccupy and divert them from pursuing the march of construction and liberation. [passage omitted]

Studies Flood Damage

JN2106091888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] The People's Assembly held a session this evening under Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, with a number of ministers attending.

The Assembly discussed the special committee's report on the damage caused by flooding of the Wadi al-Radd River, the damage to crops, and the damage caused by oil field wastes in this area and in the Al-Hasakah province.

The report included the committee's contacts with the ministers of agriculture and petroleum, who explained the nature and extent of the damage, methods to counter it, and the possibility of finding solutions to prevent future damage of this type.

The report also included results of the committee's visits and interviews with comrade members of the Al-Hasakah branch of the Ba'th Party, the Al-Hasakah governor, and with technicians and concerned parties in the area under investigation by the committee.

The report reviewed the sites concerned and the causes of the damage. It appears the damage was caused by flooding of streams flowing from neighboring countries to the Al-Radd River, flooding which damaged agricultural areas, and by flooding of the Wadi al-Radd due to the increased flow of water and the large amount of water retained by the Bab al-Hadid and Al-Jawadiyah dams. The report listed the villages damaged by the flooding and the official correspondence regarding this issue.

The report then dealt with damage caused by oil wastes from the Al-Hasakah oil fields, and their effect on potable water wells. The report referred to studies conducted over the years by the Syrian Oil Company to get rid of this polluted water, and to implement a project to inject this water into the Al-Suwaydiyah field to maintain the normal oil pressure on the one hand, and to dispose of this salty, polluted water on the other. In conclusion, the committee put forward a number of proposals to provide a suitable solution.

A number of Assembly members discussed the report, including Minister of Irrigation 'Abd al-Rahman Madani who answered questions. The Assembly accepted the report and recommendations, as well as other recommendations that were accepted during the discussion.

The Assembly then listened to the government's replies to members' written questions on a number of service issues. The session was adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday.

Territorial Waters Free of Radioactive Material

JN1906160788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] The results of a survey carried out by the Chemical Warfare Department of the Syrian Arab Army and Armed Forces have confirmed that the Syrian coast is free of any radioactive material. The Chemical Warfare Department has carried out a field survey of the Syrian shores and offshore territorial waters, using modern radioactive detectors. Scientific tests did not detect the presence of any radioactive material.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on 'Doomed' U.S. Initiative

JN1906113288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Jun 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "U.S. Political Move Doomed to Failure," AL-THAWRAH writes: The U.S. Administration continues to insist that it is not convinced of the failure of its regional policy, while moves by its diplomats imply the opposite. The activities of these diplomats are an attempt to embellish the policy of the Reagan administration, which is about to leave the White House, and to avoid admitting their impotence in keeping pace with developments imposed by the heroic uprising of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied homeland.

The latest American moves follow the extraordinary Arab summit in Algiers. The Arabs emerged from that meeting with a unanimous agreement on the need to secure every form of assistance for the uprising, the resistance, and the course of steadfastness and confrontation. They were united in reaffirming condemnation of American policy, which is biased toward Israel, and unanimous in rejecting the initiative that the U.S. secretary of state, George Shultz, has tried to market through four tours of the region. In fact, his trips have merely piled more sand on his initiative, which has become a stiff corpse in view of its essence, which centers on a single objective—circumventing and aborting the uprising, and extricating the Zionist enemy from its dilemma.

If the U.S. Administration wants to coordinate its plans for capitulation and the course of submission with the policy of separate deals, it will have no success on this level, regardless of how hard it tries or how many envoys it sends. Any American move based on disregard for the realities of the regional conflict, on disavowal of Arab rights and the Arab people's legitimate aspirations to freedom and a national identity, and on blind bias toward Israel, which continues its aggression, thanks to U.S. support, is doomed to failure. It will fail because it continues to disregard the realities produced by the uprising. These realities have led to a recovery of the purity and splendor of the Palestinian cause, and have prompted the Arabs to rally around the course of resistance and steadfastness. They have also compelled the Arabs to reject anything that may lead to an encroachment on these realities, which the struggle of our Arab people is recording with the blood of their martyrs and the heroic feats of their sons, be it in the ever escalating uprising, or in heroic resistance operations, which inflict heavy losses on the Zionists.

So long as the Arabs have chosen to support the course of steadfastness and confrontation, the U.S. Administration can count on leaving the White House without penetrating Arab ranks and saving Israel from the dilemma of the uprising. No new American move will succeed where Shultz himself has failed.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Cables GDR Nuclear-Free Zones Forum

LD2006204988 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, has sent a message to the conference on creating nuclear-free zones which started today in Berlin, the GDR capital. The message says:

Your meeting, this meeting of the world's great social and political personalities, will play a tantamount role in strengthening mankind's foremost demand for disarmament, for international peace and security. The creation of nuclear-free corridors and zones and specific and practical proposals for extending these to various parts of the world to ensure complete international security—based on the new political thinking and peaceful coexistence, detente and disarmament—has proved its effectiveness in Latin America, Africa and the South Pacific.

In the Republic of Afghanistan we highly regard the historic and peace-loving initiative of His Excellency Honecker, general secretary of the Socialist Unity Party Central Committee and president of the GDR State Council, on convening this international conference on nuclear-free zones. The importance of this initiative is, first of all, that the GDR has made every effort to prevent another world war, especially, a nuclear war, through convening this conference. It has spared no attempts to strengthen mutual and useful cooperation and trust in international affairs.

The message adds that the Republic of Afghanistan plays a true and active role in fully implementing the national reconciliation policy and the Geneva agreements, and through these, plays a role in reducing regional and world problems. The solution to a very complicated and painful problem through the Geneva talks, as a result of the flexible and peace-loving Republic of Afghanistan, has opened new prospects for the solution to other problems through common efforts for peaceful measures.

Finally Esteemed Najibullah's message expressed the desire for a successful conclusion to the meeting's work, for the conference participants' further success in holding this conference, and for the implementation of its decisions and resolutions for the creation of a nuclear-free and conflict-free world.

Protocol Signed With USSR on Amu Darya Project

LD2006230888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1532 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] A protocol for buttressing the Amu Darya River banks in the area of (Hayratan-Bandar) was signed today in the Ministry of Commerce.

The project costing 8,160,000 rubles will be financed from a Soviet credit of 15 million rubles.

The BIA reports that the protocol was signed on the Afghan side by Muhammad Khan Jalaler, minister of commerce of the Republic of Afghanistan, and on the Soviet side by (Koverovich), Soviet economic consul in Kabul. Work on the project will be completed in 2 years and will have a great impact on the effectiveness of (Hayratan) port by increasing cargo flow.

Memo 31 on Pakistani Violations Submitted to UN

LD2206125488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 21, BAKHTAR—The thirty first notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on violation of Geneva accords by Pakistan was handed over to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today, the liaison office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan with UNGOMAP reports.

The notice detailed about the eight explicit violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords with their exact date, place and nature of violations.

The notice has asked the UNGOMAP to investigate the violations and apprise the Afghan side and the special representative of the UN secretary general of its results.

Najibullah Meets With Provincial Representatives

LD1906001788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Excerpts] This afternoon at Delkoshah Palace, headquarters of the presidency, Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received elders and representatives of Panjsher and Qarghah'i districts, Laghman Province, and representatives of (Sayyed Nur), (Muhammad Shah Mena) and Chahar Dehi, Kabul city. He spoke with them about the environmental problems of the people of these localities.

A BIA correspondent reports that Esteemed Najibullah, having met the representatives of Panjsher and Qarghah'i districts, Laghman, listened to the environmental problems of the people of these districts and gave instructions to the relevant authorities for the correction of the problems.

According to another report, Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met with ulema and religious leaders and elders of Chahar Dehi region in Kabul city. [passage omitted]

Esteemed Najibullah spoke during this meeting on the gains of the national reconciliation policy in ensuring peace and ending war in the country, the importance of the Geneva accords, and the results of the recent visit by a high-ranking delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan

to New York and Cuba. He gave instructions to the relevant authorities to resolve the environmental problems of the people of Chahar Dehi. [passage omitted]

According to another report, this afternoon Esteemed Najibullah received the activists of the self-defense units of the trade unions of the city and province of Kabul city at Delkoshah Palace.

'Abdul Satar Pordeli, chairman of the Central Council of Afghanistan's Trade Unions, spoke briefly about the work and activities of the members of the self-defense in the country. [passage omitted]

Esteemed Najibullah, during this meeting, having explained the documents of the Geneva accords and the aims of the national reconciliation policy, specified the duties of the members of the self-defense groups of the trade unions and said: The vain and destructive efforts by the extremists have not ended with the implementation of the national reconciliation policy; rather they have intensified. This means we must exert further defense efforts for peace and security. Do not allow the extremists to disturb the peaceful life of our people any more.

Esteemed Najibullah added: The self-defense units enjoy special importance in protecting and safeguarding our establishments and in ensuring peace. The self-defense units of the trade unions need to be strengthened further, and the effectiveness of their activities for the defense of peace should be enhanced. Esteemed Najibullah then gave instructions concerning the proposals and views of the activists of the self-defense units on eliminating their difficulties.

Council of Ministers Limits Government Authority
LD2006042488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] The Council of Ministers informs all citizens of the country that henceforth no government body in the capital or provinces of the country has the authority to issue extraordinary or exceptional orders about anything. The rights of individuals are equally observed without prejudice and privilege within the framework of the enforced laws.

51 Prisoners Released in Jowzjan, Qandahar
LD1906203388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] In line with the presidential decree on the release of prisoners, another 31 prisoners were released today in Jowzjan Province.

The military section of the BIA reports that at a meeting arranged for this purpose, former prisoner Muhammad Eshaq, on behalf of the others, expressed readiness to cooperate with national reconciliation.

Another 20 prisoners were released today from Qandahar prison, in line with the presidential decree. The military section of BIA reports that one of the released prisoners spoke on behalf of the others at a meeting arranged for this purpose and vowed to cooperate actively in implementing national reconciliation and in maintaining peace and tranquility in the country.

Rebels To Appoint Qalat Governor, Islamic Judges
BK1906113688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1103 GMT 19 Jun 88

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, June 19 (AFP)—Afghan resistance parties will appoint a governor and name Islamic judges to run Qalat, the first important city to fall to the mujahidin in nine years of fighting, rebel sources said Sunday.

Qalat, capital of Zabul Province in the south, was captured by the mujahidin Friday after prolonged fighting, several resistance sources said.

The Kabul government said Saturday however that its troops had crushed the rebel attack on the city after heavy fighting.

Rebel sources said the resistance parties would appoint their own governor and name Islamic judges to run the justice and administration departments in Qalat. "People will like and support the set up," a resistance spokesman told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The rebel groups, who have already formed an interim national government headed by U.S.-educated Ahmad Shah, might also examine the possibility of setting up their government's headquarters in Qalat, he said.

The rebels recently sent teams to select a location for their government base and Qalat was one of six possible sites in the border regions, rebel sources said.

Qalat's nearness to Zwakah was also useful, they said, but added that no hasty decision would be taken.

The city of 50,000 to 60,000 people has its own radio station and the Kabul government had set up centres for education and agriculture research and a well-organised communications network, the rebels said.

It also has a number of reasonably good hotels for tourists plus a well-equipped hospital and more than 2,000 shops.

Surrounded by hills, it enjoys natural protection against air raids, the rebels said, adding they believed the mujahidin "can hold it without much problem."

High-altitude bombing was possible but "bombing will cause problems for the local population and the civilian casualties would be heavy compared to the mujahidin who can take up positions in the mountains," a rebel source said.

According to reports reaching Quetta from across the border, three rebel groups coordinated in a joint operation for the capture of Qalat, including both fundamentalists and moderates, a unique coalition, the sources said.

Some 600 mujahidin fighters joined for the final assault on Friday, they said.

Losses on both sides were heavy in that attack, they said, but gave no figures pending details.

"The victory has heavily boosted the morale" of the resistance geurrillas, a resistance source told AFP.

The siege of the city began late May soon after some 6,000 Soviet soldiers pulled out in line with the Geneva accord under which Moscow is committed to withdrawing all its estimated 115,000 troops by February.

The mujahidin defeated Afghan troops deployed to replace the Soviet forces and later cut the highway linking the Afghan capital Kabul with the country's second biggest city Qandahar. Qalat was isolated, they said.

The rebel sources said the mujahidin also established contact with the Kabul militia which also played a major role in the fall of Qalat and that a large number of troops defected as fighting climaxed.

A Kabul border brigade based in Bala Hesar was the only post left in the outskirts of Qalat and the resistance might allow the troops a safe exit.

The rebel groups were apparently confident of consolidating their victory by also taking Shah Juy town as part of their ultimate plan to capture Qandahar.

Fighting for Qandahar was continuing and the sources said mujahidin pressure was mounting on Baba Vali Saheb village six kilometres from the city.

Government, Rebel Operations, Clashes Reported

Rebels in Qandahar 'Crushed'

LD2106182588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] The BAKHTAR military section has reported that warmongering extremists who carried out subversive and terrorist activities with the help of foreign advisers, disrupting the peaceful life of our compatriots in Spin Buldak district, Qandahar Province, were recently crushed as a result of decisive blows by the country's Armed Forces.

As a result of this operation by the Armed Forces, 135 of the criminal and terrorist extremists were crushed and another 100 injured.

The report says that, following the mopping-up activities by the armed forces, the inhabitants of Spin Buldak district expressed their thanks to the armed forces at a meeting and expressed their readiness to defend the gains of national reconciliation in this district.

There is accurate information available that the heads of the extremist groups, with the cooperation and guidance of ruling circles of a number of warmongering countries, have fixed a so-called blood price—30,000 rupees for each man injured and 100,000 rupees for each one killed—with respect to those taking part in the fratricidal war and destructive actions inside Afghanistan. The purpose is to encourage those dependent on the extremist groups and to continue the fratricidal war in Afghanistan.

They have applied this evil scheme in Spin Buldak region. However, despite all the plots and conspiracies by the warmongers, the extremists who stubbornly oppose the policy of national reconciliation—this just demand of our compatriots—could not stand against the firm determination of the guardians of independence, territorial integrity, and policy of national reconciliation in the country when confronted with a resolute response by the personnel of the armed forces.

The shameful defeat of the elements belonging to the warmongering groups, who have chosen the path of continuing the death and destruction inside the Republic of Afghanistan, is no secret to anyone. The international media is quoting sources in Quetta, Pakistan, which admitted last night the defeat of the extremists in the Spin Buldak region.

Rebel Claims to Qalat Refuted

LD2106164888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Continuing their duties in Zabol Province, the armed forces have inflicted heavy blows on extremist groups that were preparing to disrupt the peaceful life of the people in and around Zabol Province.

The BAKHTAR military section has reported that, despite the fuss by a number of countries' mass media that have misrepresented the situation in Qalat, the capital of Zabol Province. After the withdrawal of the limited Soviet units, personnel of the armed forces, with the total cooperation of the people of this region, are in full control of the situation in Zabol Province. In defending the country's national sovereignty and territorial

integrity, they do not provide any opportunity to the enemies of the homeland to disrupt the peaceful life of the people or to implement their treacherous plans in Qalat city or Zabol Province.

For example, a group of extremist elements, numbering up to 250 men, armed with heavy weapons including surface-to-surface missiles, were disrupting the peaceful life of the people. The armed forces killed 130 of them and seriously injured another 120. As a result of this operation, eight mortars and dozens of assorted weapons were destroyed, and a number of hideouts of the extremist group were also destroyed.

The BAKHTAR military correspondent reports from Qalat, the capital of Zabol province, that the people in that region are continuing their life in a peaceful atmosphere.

Rebels Forced To Evacuate Qalat

BK2106165588 Hong Kong AFP in English 1641 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, June 21 (AFP)—Afghan rebels were forced to retreat from the key city of Qalat after holding it for 48 hours, resistance sources here said Tuesday.

After capturing the southeastern Afghan city Friday, the anti-communist rebels had to abandon it Sunday due to pressure from reinforced Kabul forces, the sources said.

Diplomatic sources in Islamabad confirmed the rebels seized Qalat Friday.

(In Moscow, a Soviet Government spokesman Tuesday denied reports that the Afghan resistance had captured Qalat and said government troops loyal to Kabul were in control.)

(Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov told a news conference that "in reality, the city is controlled by authorities designated by Kabul and attempts to capture it were rebuffed by government forces.")

The mujahidin had to abandon Qalat, the first provincial capital to fall into their hands in more than eight years of war, because they could not take a nearby military post held by Kabul's forces, rebel sources said.

The post, Bala Hesar, is situated on a hill several hundred meters (yards) away, the rebel sources said. The 600 rebels who took part in the capture of Qalat have retreated several kilometres (miles) from the city, they said.

The heaviest fighting is in the province of Qandahar in southeast Afghanistan, where the mujahidin Saturday had to abandon a three-week siege of Spin Buldak, a garrison city close to the Pakistani border, rebel sources said.

Rebel control of Spin Buldak or Qalat would be a direct threat to the Soviet hold on Qandahar city, Afghanistan's second-largest, whose suburbs are already under rebel control, observers said.

The city now has only one land route for supplies, the road that leads to Herat in the west of the country, diplomatic sources in Islamabad said.

Kabul forces have retreated from most Afghan Government garrisons—mostly in the provinces of Paktia, Nangarhar and Qandahar—which have since been occupied by the mujahidin, observers in Islamabad said.

They have surrounded several important cities: Orgun and Khowst in Paktia Province and the provincial capital of Asadabad in Konarha northeast of Kabul, they added.

But the rebels have still not launched a big offensive announced for the beginning of June against Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar in eastern Afghanistan, diplomats in Islamabad said.

The city is well defended by an elite division of the regular Afghan Army and several hundred Soviet soldiers and advisers, most of them posted at a major air base to the east of the city, they said.

Ten Soviet soldiers were captured at the beginning of the month in the province of Baghlan in northern Afghanistan, diplomatic sources said.

Rebels Claim 30 Towns Liberated

LD2106180988 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Islamabad, June 21, IRNA—Mujahidin have liberated 30 townships and destroyed or captured 150 military outposts in Afghanistan since the start of the Soviet withdrawal from this Muslim country, leader of Jamiyat-e Eslami-e Afghanistan said Monday.

Burhanuddin Rabbani who was speaking at a press conference in Peshawar, once again criticised the Geneva indirect talks between Pakistan and the Soviet installed Kabul regime and said as it was expected the negotiations bore no fruit due to the absence of the real representatives of the Afghan people.

"Despite the fact that three months have passed since the inking of the Geneva agreement, the occupying forces still continue to massacre innocent people," he said

adding "recent bombardments of Samangan and Faryab Provinces which left a lot of martyrs and wounded, were directly guided from inside the Soviet soil."

Rabbani also criticised efforts of the United Nations envoy Diego Cordovez and said when mujahidin asked him to set forth the issue of the future government in Afghanistan, he did not show much interest.

The mujahidin leader described recent threats of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze against Pakistan as a pretext for continuation of Moscow's military occupation of Afghanistan.

The Afghan leader elsewhere attacked the stance of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi towards Afghanistan, who he noted has termed establishment of a mujahidin government in Afghanistan as "a danger to regional security." He said it is rather the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and India's military expedition in Sri Lanka which have endangered the region, and "India should take note it has no right to threaten Afghan people for their struggle against aggression," Rabbani said.

However, Rabbani made it clear that after establishement of a mujahidin government, Afghanistan would have freindly relations with its neighbours, including India.

More on the issue, Rabbani said despite evidences of Soviet construction of air fields and military installations in northern provinces of Afghanistan aimed at disintegrating the country, the mujahidin will continue their holy jihad to liberate the whole country.

The future mujahidin government in Afghanistan would be based on free elections and that "our Afghan brothers in Iran should also take part in the decision-making," he said.

At the end of the conference Rabbani called for food supplies to Afghanistan, saying the shortage of water supply poses the threat of a famine.

Mujadeddi on Rebel Alliance, Political Strategy

AU2106102688 Bonn DIE WELT in German 21 Jun 88 p 5

[Walter H. Rueb report: "Moderates Count on Afghanistan's Ex-King"]

[Text] Bonn—Sebghatullah Mujadeddi, one of the moderate leaders of the Afghan resistance, is currently traveling through the FRG and other European countries to explain his position and that of the seven-party alliance at this difficult time when political decisions must be made on the most viable way of assuming power in Kabul.

In a talk with DIE WELT he denies that the members of the seven-party alliance are quarreling among themselves. "Of course, there are differences of opinion," he admits, "for instance with regard to solving the problems on the route toward peace in Afghanistan." The fundamentalists demand free elections. We moderates, on the other hand, stick to tradition, and thus to convening a Loya Jirgah, to which tribal chiefs, elders, religious and political leaders, members of the intellectual elite, the military, and all social strata in general will be invited and where things are discussed until unanimous agreement is reached."

Mujadeddi admits that convening a Loya Jirgah is not supported by the majority at present. "I have been struggling for this, but it was in vain. I agreed to elections within the next 4 months so as not to delay the formation of a government in Kabul."

Mujadeddi considers the change at the head of the seven-party alliance in Peshawar on 15 June as a strengthening of his position. He notes that it is an open secret that Pir Sayyed Gaylani of the National Islamic Front, the moderate new chief of the alliance, is aiming at goals similar to those of Mujadeddi. He, too rejects a strictly Islamic state, has a pro-Western attitude, and has repeatedly spoken up in favor of reactivating ex-King Zahir Shah. Says Mujadeddi: "We do not want a monarchist restoration. But we are convinced that Zahir Shah could play a positive role as a figure of integration at the head of a transition government."

Within the talk there is only a small step from this statement to recalling the assassination of Sayyed Baha'uddin Majruh in February. In summer 1987 Majruh took a poll among Afghan refugees and found that 71 percent favor a leading political role on the party of Zahir Shah and only 12 percent demand a purely Islamic state.

Mujadeddi answers DIE WELT's question of whether he thinks that rumors and statements are correct that say that Majruh became the victim of the radical fundamentalists who came off badly in his poll in the following way: "There are many rumors but no proof. I have also been the target of several attacks. But God has always protected me."

Mujadeddi rejects the accusation of being a blind friend of the king's. "During Zahir Shah's rule I spent 4 years and 7 months in prison. I was accused of having planned an attack on Khrushchev during his visit to Afghanistan. There was no trial, only 55 terrible months in the Dehmazang-e prison in Kabul."

Mujadeddi is not embarrassed by the question of why Moscow and Kabul called especially for the former king. "He always had good relations with the Soviets," he says. Mujadeddi also voices criticism: "As early as 1978 we called on Zahir Shah to put himself in the front ranks of the resistance.... He did not do so. With regard to the call

of January 1987 from Moscow and Kabul, one has to say that perhaps this appeal was made to split the resistance because Moscow and Kabul know very well that there are unbridgeable differences in the resistance with regard to the ex-king."

Correction to Presidential Decree on Government

This correction pertains to the item headlined "Presidential Decree Approves New Government" published in the 20 June Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT on pages 39-40:

On page 40, paragraph twenty-four should read: Mr Muhammad Asef Zahir, minister of reconstruction and rural development

Dost Muhammad Fazl, minister of light industries and foodstuffs... (supplying dropped line)

India

14 Killed in Amritsar Blast; Curfew Imposed

BK2106160488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] At least 14 people were killed in a powerful bomb blast in Amritsar this evening. Twenty-five have been seriously injured. According to early reports, the blast took place near a sweetmeat shop in Katra Ahluwalia at about 1915 this evening. The entire area has been cordoned off. Curfew has been imposed in the walled city and some sensitive areas outside as a precautionary measure. One agency report puts the death toll at 18.

Further details are awaited.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1600 GMT on 21 June in its report datelined Amritsar says: "Two powerful bombs exploded near a Hindu temple in this Sikh holy city Tuesday night, leaving at least 14 people dead and 60 injured, officials said. However eye-witnesses counted at least 22 bodies after the explosions which occurred around 7.10 pm (1340 GMT) near a Hindu temple in the Katra Ahluwalia area of this Punjab city. They said bodies were strewn over the busy commercial district and that casualties could be even higher than 22."]

Police on Maximum Alert

BK2206031188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Latest reports from Amritsar say 23 people were killed and 40 injured in a powerful bomb blast that rocked a market place yesterday evening. According to an official spokesman, the condition of some of the injured is said to be serious. Curfew, which was imposed in the walled city and some sensitive areas outside it, continues. The blast took place at a crowded wholesale textile market in Katra Ahluwalia. Eyewitnesses say the blast was so powerful that window panes of several buildings were smashed. Limbs of dead persons were scattered all over the place. A number of scooters and other vehicles were damaged.

Our Chandigarh correspondent reports that two unexploded bomb-like devices have been recoveed from a nearby locality. The area is being cordoned off and Army experts have been called in to defuse the devices.

Police and security forces have been put on maximum alert in the neighboring states in Delhi. Our correspondent reports that this is the second powerful bomb blast, which has rocked Amritsar city in less than a month. The previous blast, which took place on 30th of last month, had claimed about 25 lives and caused injuries to 40.

Meanwhile, elsewhere in the state, terrorists gunned down two persons, including a communist activist, and injured another two in separate incidents in Jullundur and Hoshiarpur Districts last night.

'Prohibitory Orders' Issued in Belgaum District

BK2206032188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] In Karnataka, prohibitory orders have been issued in Belgaum District following mob violence. According to police, 5,000 people, who were protesting against drinking water shortage, turned violent and started pelting stones on vehicles and policemen. Police had to resort to lathi [baton] charge. Twenty-nine persons have been arrested.

Gandhi on Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Recent Elections

BK2006130588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] The prime minister has cautioned the people against anti-national elements which tried to thwart the country's progress. In an interview to a Madras daily, Mr Rajiv Gandhi expressed concern over Pakistan's continued involvement in terrorist activities in Punjab. He said these are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Simla Agreement and stand in the way of improving bilateral relations with that country.

The prime minister replied to a variety of questions posed by the daily. On Sri Lanka, he said that the door is still open for the LTTE to lay down arms and join the democratic process. Mr Gandhi said efforts are on to persuade them to do so.

When asked about the alliance between the political parties in the recent by-elections, Mr Gandhi described it as self-destructive. He alleged that the opposition is not committed to any ideology or welfare of the people.

Vote Counting Resumes in Udhampur 21 Jun

BK2106081188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] A team of Election Commission officials led by Mr K.C. Saha, secretary to the commission, has started crosschecking of the records relating to allegations of booth capturing in the Faridabad Lok Sabha and Taoru assembly constituencies in Haryana. The team, which arrived in Faridabad this morning, is expected to finish its work in 2 or 3 days.

The AIR correspondent reporting from Faridabad understands that the team will also visit Palwal, Nuh, Taoru and Ferozepur Jhirka before finalizing its report to be submitted to the chief election commissioner. As already reported, counting of votes in these two constituencies remain suspended following allegations made by the Congress-I.

Further counting of votes in the last two segments of the Udhampur parliamentary constituency in Jammu and Kashmir resumed shortly after 1100 [0530 GMT] this morning in Kathua. It was adjourned late last night to give rest to the counting staff. The counting is now being held in the presence of the Election Commission secretary, Dr R.P. Bhalla. The result is expected in the afternoon.

7 'Hardcore' Naxalites Arrested Near Hyderabad

BK2106034488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, police nabbed seven hardcore Naxalites while they were attempting to burn a bus at Patancheru near Hyderabad last night. According to police sources, the arrested Naxalites confessed their involvement in the recent burning of the (Nagulupalli) railway station and Patancheru telephone exchange in Medak District.

In a separate incident, 15 armed Naxalites set ablaze the Mandu revenue office in the Karimnagar District last night.

Iran

UK Paper Cited on Hostage Talks With U.S.

NC2206134888 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 7 Jun 88 p 1

[Text] Tehran, June 6 (KAYHAN INT'L)—Washington is reportedly trying to secure the release of American hostages held in Lebanon by conducting talks with Iran on the threshold of U.S. presidential elections, says a newspaper report.

The London GUARDIAN Saturday quoted political sources in West Beirut as saying that some approaches were being made in Switzerland as well as in Lebanon. The last reported meeting was two U.S. envoys having talks with Islamic groups in the southern suburbs of Beirut, it said.

Some 15 people from the West, including 9 Americans, are still missing in Lebanon. Last month France was seen successful in freeing its three remaining hostages with the help of the Islamic Republic.

GUARDIAN said the talks were not expected to produce quick results but that attempts would "accelerate inexorably" as America approaches its presidential elections in November.

Washington's most recently reported attempts to release Americans in Lebanon ended in disclosures of coverted dealings that rocked virtually the whole of the Reagan administration.

According to a recently published book, Reagan's attempted covert operations with Iran started during his own presidential campaign in 1980.

U.S. journalist Leslie Cockburn in "Out of Control" maintains that Reagan's top aides were "terrified" that Carter may snatch victory and took "several steps" to ensure this did not happen in the months preceding the November elections.

Carter's re-election was crippled by the impasse brought about by the take-over of the U.S. embassy in Tehran.

Further Reportage on Visit of UK Delegation

Meets With SAIRI Leader

LD2106143888 Tehran IRNA in English 1355 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA—A British parliamentary delegation currently here met with Chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Bakr Hakim today.

During the meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim outlined Iraqi crimes including its martyring of a large number of Muslim ulema and defenceless people and its threats against regional peace.

He also briefed the delegation on SAIRI's activities saying it has friendly relations with Kurds and all opposition groups in Iraq.

Members of the British delegation stressed that the government and Parliament of Britain had condemned Iraq for its deployment of chemical arms and violation of human rights, several times.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim called on the British Government to revise its relations with the Baghdad regime. He stressed that the Iraqi nation will fight against Saddam until his downfall and that they believe the shortest path towards security in the region is the fall of the Baghdad regime.

A 4-man British parliamentary delegation arrived here Monday morning. The delegation includes Thomas Clarke of the Labour Party, Cyril Townsend and Robert Hicks of the ruling Conservative Party and Lord Tordoff of the Social Liberal Democrats.

Meets With Larijani

LD2106190988 Tehran IRNA in English 1853 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA—It is a matter of regret that Western governments and international circles failed to take a just stand towards the Iraqi regime's aggression against the Islamic Republic, said a senior Foreign Ministry official here Tuesday.

Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani made the above remarks in a meeting with the visiting British parliamentary delegation. "Our most important issue is the (imposed) war," he added.

Britain's first step for betterment of ties between the two countries can be correcting its previous stands and taking an impartial attitude towards the Iraqi imposed war, he suggested when questioned by a British MP on how bilateral relations could improve.

"There should be a parting of ways between Britain and the U.S. concerning ties with the Islamic Republic," Larijani made it clear.

He appreciated Britain's stance for condemning the Iraqi regime for its deployment of chemical weapons.

The West has unfortunately made a grave mistake by obstinately ignoring the reality of the Islamic Revolution, Larijani said adding, if Western governments, especially Britain are keen to improve their ties with Iran they should "well recognize the revolution" and revise their stance.

The British delegation comprising four MP's inclusing two from the ruling Conservative Party arrived here Monday on its own request.

Mo'ayeri on Ties, Hostages

LD2106203688 Tehran IRNA in English 2030 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA—A senior Iranian official said Tuesday that relations with Britain could return to their previous level. He also expressed hopes that the London government's future policies vis-a-vis the Iraq-Iran war, the use of chemical weapons and the Persian Gulf developments, would eliminate obstacles on the way of improvement of mutual Tehran-London ties.

Prime Minister Hosayn Musavi's political deputy, 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri further said that Iran would ask its friends in Lebanon to help locate the British hostages held in Beirut provided that London too would take steps towards helping the release of Iranian hostages in Lebanon.

Mo'ayeri who was speaking in a meeting with the four visiting U.K. parliamentarians here on their own initiative, reiterated however that the Islamic Republic would not interfere in domestic affairs of other countries, including Lebanon.

The British delegation—Conservative MP's Cyril Townsend and Robert Hicks, Labor MP Tom Clarke, and House of Lords member Lord Tordoff—arrived here in the midnight Monday and have so far met with a number of Iranian officials and an Iraqi opposition leader.

Blaming London for what he described as its "erroneous policies in siding with the war-mongering Baghdad regime" and criticising Britain's role for "aggravating tension in the Persian Gulf," Mo'ayeri told the U.K. MP's that "we want other states to remain neutral in the war (with Iraq) and also not interfere in the Persian Gulf affairs."

The British parliamentarians in turn expressed their government's tendency to mend ties with Islamic Iran and said they wanted to get acquainted with the realities in Iran during their stay here.

Mo'ayaeri said, based on its established principles, the Islamic Rpeublic has always favoured mutual healthy ties with other states but he regretted that the problem with certain countries was that "they failed to understand us in accordance with the existing realities and instead adopted an unrealistic approach towards our Islamic Revolution."

The deputy premier further stressed that Iran would warmly welcome any good-will steps aimed at perceiving the realities of the Islamic Republic. He added however that the countries willing to have relations with Iran "must remember that a people who have created one of the greatest revolutions in the world would not tolerate unequal relations."

Mo'ayeri told the British MP's that Iran puts the blame for the soured relations with Britain on the London government because of its "undiplomatic and indecent policies" in the past. "We expect you, as representatives of the people of England to convey to your government the impacts of such (negative) attitudes as well as our logical stands," Mo'ayeri urged the U.K. parliamentarians.

Hicks Holds News Conference

LD2106220088 Tehran IRNA in English 2135 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 22, IRNA—Britain's Conservative Member of Parliament Robert Hicks who is here along with three other U.K. MP's, said Tuesday that the time was ripe for Tehran and London to improve their diplomatic ties.

Speaking at a televised press conference and on behalf of the British delegation, Hicks described the visit of the U.K. parliamentrians who are here on their own, as "historic" because he said no British parliamentarian or government official had visited Iran after its 1979 Islamic Revolution and also because diplomatic ties between the two countries had been virtually cut since a year ago.

Hicks said despite the fact that the delegation's members belonged to three different U.K. parties, however he was happy to say they all agreed it was the time for Iran and Britain to better their relations.

The conservative MP said their slogan was to forget the past and instead endeavour toward discovering common grounds for improvement of relations.

Hicks said the delegation believed its visit to Tehran was timely and he expressed hopes that "with the changes in the attitudes of the two countries officials," issues of dispute between them such as human rights, trade and politics, would be resolved and relations would turn to good account.

He also made it clear that the delegation had no specific and detailed plan but that they only wanted to inform the Islamic Republic officials of the British Government's viewpoints.

Church of England envoy John Lyttle who was also present at the news conference, said the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr. Robert Runcie conveyed his warm greetings to Imam Khomeyni and the Iranian people and was hopeful the visit of a British delegation to Iran would help mend relations between the two countries.

On the condition of Roger Cooper, a Briton being held here on espionage charges, Lyttle said he had visited him in prison and found him quite healthy.

UK Foreign Office Spokesman on Improved Ties

LD2106184088 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] London, June 21, IRNA—The British Government is fully prepared to have better ties with Tehran but the decision is up to the Iranians, the Foreign Office has said.

"We have often said that we stand ready to have better relations with the Iranians," a ministry spokesman told IRNA Tuesday. "The problems that exist are over levels of representation."

The Foreign Office was speaking on the eve of the planned return from Iran of a delegation of four British Members of Parliament (MP's) but did not rule out that it was hoping for a favourable report from them. "One is always looking for positive signs," the spokesman said and the ministry would "hear whatever they have to say," but he did know when this would be.

The British Government has been cautious about its approach to Iran which was officially made through the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, who said Tuesday that he had been in direct telex contact with the delegation, but did not give further details.

He confirmed that he expected to see the MP's back Wednesday and spoke further about how he felt it was important to keep links open and how he arranged the trip.

A 4-man British parliamentary delegation comprising Thomas Clarke of the Labour Party, Cyril Townsend and Robert Hicks of the ruling Conservative Party and Lord Tordoff of the Social Liberal Democrats arrived here Monday on its own request.

Further Reportage on Visit of DPRK Premier

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2106125988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yi Kun-mo of the DPRK and his accompanying delegation met today with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the acting commander in chief of the armed forces and the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. We have received the following report:

According to the Central News Unit, at this meeting the DPRK prime minister expressed his appreciation for the hospitality of the Iranian nation and government and his pleasure at the increase in cooperation and collaboration between the two countries and nations. He also expressed the hope that through solidarity the Iranian nation will be more successful than before in preserving the gains of its revolution. He said: U.S. imperialism has planned various conspiracies against the Islamic Revolution and has also increased its aggression in the Persian Gulf. We strongly condemn these conspiracies and aggressions and announce that the DPRK nation and government will always be at the side of your nation and revolution. In conclusion, the DPRK prime minister referred to the internal situation in the DPRK and to some international issues, and expressed the hope that this visit will be useful for the expansion of bilateral relations. He also invited Hashemi-Rafsanjani to pay another visit to the DPRK.

Then the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces welcomed the DPRK prime minister and his accompanying delegation and said: Your country was among the first which sincerely cooperated with us after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, because you have experienced the struggle against imperialism in your recent history and are quite mindful of it.

Referring to the plots of imperialism against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the brave steadfastness of the Iranian people against these conspiracies, the acting commander in chief of the armed forces announced: Our nation, like the DPRK, has endured great difficulties as a result of these conspiracies yet it has also clearly tasted the sweetness of independence and struggle against hegemony and hegemonists. For the same reason, it has remained steadfast with all its might against these conspiracies. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also said: Inspired by the sublime thoughts of our leader we try to prove to the world that concerning this war which has been imposed upon us, one nation alone can wear down and defeat all the hostile forces. You understand this point better than others, because you have also traversed the same road.

At the end of his remarks, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly referred to regional events and described the progress achieved by the Islamic Republic of Iran in various fields. He expressed the hope that cooperation between the DPRK and Iran will daily expand. He also announced: The nation and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be at the side of the DPRK nation and government in overcoming shortages.

Confers With Mansuri

LD2106183688 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Oceania Affairs Javad Mansuri met Pak Ol-chun [name as received], his counterpart from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), here today.

In the meeting, the DPRK official who is a member of Premier Yi Kun-mo's delegation expressed satisfaction over the trend of talks between the two countries. Terming the discussions "friendly" he called for expansion of mutual cooperation.

Pak considered the improvement of Tehran-Pyongyang bilateral relations as a symbol of South-South cooperation and asked for signing of a joint trade and economic agreement before the departure of the Korean delegation.

In response, Mansuri outlining the existing grounds for Tehran-Pyongyang trade and economic cooperations announced Iran's readiness to expand its ties with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in all fields.

At the end of the meeting, the two sides put emphasis on coordination between Iran and DPRK on the venue of the 9th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Editorial on Changes Needed in French Policy

PM2106153588 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jun 88 p 14

[Editorial by V. Guya: "Will the Realistic Approach of the French Government Last?"]

[Text] The recent changes in the French ruling body are not only the most important events to have taken place in that country recently, but also perhaps some of the most important in Europe. The French Socialists gained power in the presidential election with a considerable majority. This ended the so-called cohabitation period with a conservative government and gave them sole control of the government. The Socialists' next move is to gain a majority in parliament, away from the rightists.

These events have also caused changes in the dire relations between Iran and France. Political analysts believe that undoubtedly both powerful factions had a hand in the worsening of Franco-Iranian relations. The groundwork for these relations occurred during the Socialists' rule. Although the right-wing element made some efforts to eliminate tension when it first came to power, it was this same group that last summer played a major role in the breaking of ties between the two nations.

It was obvious that this precipitious action would have its own consequences and that sooner or later France would realize its mistake in ignoring the Islamic Republic of Iran's role in the Persian Gulf and in the Middle East, and that it would want to correct that mistake. The Chirac government took some steps in this direction, and it seemed that this trend was not just limited to the conservatives. The Socialists were also showing their willingness to repair relations in other ways. In reality, this was a necessity for the French Government and should be regarded outside the boundaries of internal power struggles.

Now the new regime has come to power with a wealth of experience gained from the consequences of the hostility it has shown toward the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is determined to use the previous government's gains to normalize ties. Resolving the issues with Iran will enable France to strengthen its position in this region and to play a more active role in the international arena.

The international mass media, particularly the various French newspapers, have regarded the recent reestablishment of ties as being in Iran's interest—a move to get Iran out of political isolation. However, the truth is that the normalization of ties will only be realized when it is beneficial for both sides. The point to watch is the basic policies of French Government officials.

French officials must know that if they wish to play a more positive role in this region, they must make some basic changes in their policies toward the Islamic Republic of Iran. Although the Chirac government took some effective steps to resolve the financial disputes between the two countries, it is now up to the new government, as a first step, to finally close the matter. The people of Iran are determined to get every last penny owed to them; this is the right of the innocent people of Iran.

The good relations between the Socialist government and terrorist groups are nothing new, but these relations take on a new importance now. The new French Government's officials have to differentiate between party politics and the responsible position of a government. In general, it is time the Socialists showed more maturity in their foreign policy and moved their position away from the limited views of a political party.

The recent French move to cancel a deportation order on some Hypocrite terrorists [Mojahedin-e Khalq guerrillas] and the possible return of these people from Spain to France has sounded the alarm. Officials of the Islamic Republic have to regard these moves carefully in their future dealings.

Rocard does not seem to want to test the steadfastness of the Iranian people and appears concerned not to lose the present momentum. The dedicated Muslim revolutionaries in this region in formulating their relations with France will match French policy in this area. If France once again follows the aggressive policies of the United States and its servant Saddam, it should expect a response from the region's revolutionary forces.

Let us hope that the recent tendency for France to try to improve ties with the most powerful nation in the Persian Gulf area was a gesture of goodwill and not one of dissent, and let us hope that it will bring about some tangible changes in France's regional policies. The recent remarks made by the French president on the need to determine who started the war and the condemnation of Iraq for the use of chemical weapons are first steps in an effort by France toward neutrality in the war.

Yet, there is a long way to go to complete neutrality, let alone a just and fair position. Also, the presence of French troops alongside those of the aggressive United States in the Persian Gulf strengthens the image of supporting Iraq. If there is no improvement in this field, the revolutionary Muslims see no reason why they should change their attitude toward France.

There is now a historic opportunity in the relations between the two countries. France's actions in the region will be placed under a microscope so that the people can see what France plans in terms of action, and not just words.

Hungarian Industry Minister Visits Esfahan

LD1706170988 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Esfahan, June 17, IRNA—Hungarian Industries Minister Frigyes Berecz currently in Iran to discuss economic and industrial issues with Iranian officials within the framework of the fourth Tehran-Budapest joint economic session arrived here today and was greeted by provincial officials.

The Hungarian minister inspected Esfahan Polyacril factory and proposed that steps be taken for exchange visits by Iranian and Hungarian experts based on the technical and scientific agreement signed between the two sides.

The Hungarian guest noted that his country intends to hold an exhibition in Tehran hoping that talks on ways to set up the exhibition would be followed while the Hungarian delegation is visiting Iran.

Berecz stressed that the sophisticated Polyacril plant can be a means to exchange technology between the two countries the commercial and economic trades of which are on a barter basis.

He announced that the delegation in its visit has concluded that the volume of trade exchanges should be promoted expressing hope for the success of the current talks which he called a prelude to attain that goal. Hungary is prepared to supply the raw materials for the Esfahan Polyacril plant, he said.

In a meeting between the board of directors of Polyacril and the Hungarian delegation the managing director of the factory explained the activities, products, and capacity as well as the technology used in the factory.

He announced that experts in Polyacril industries are ready to cooperate with their Hungarian counterparts.

Economic Memorandum Signed With Greece

NC2206071988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] The supervisor for foreign and international economic relations from our country's Ministry of National Economy and Finance [title as heard] and the director of Greece's Ministry of National Economy have signed a memorandum, following talks between a Greek economic delegation and Iranian officials.

According to an IRNA report, the Greek Government has, on the basis of this memorandum, expressed its readiness to purchase 1 million tons of crude oil from the Islamic Republic of Iran in the next year. It was also decided that the first joint economic session would be held shortly in Athens to expand mutual economic and technical cooperation in the fields of industry, agriculture, banking, and trade. The two countries' deputy

ministers of economy and finance will participate in this session. This delegation arrived in Tehran last Friday to discuss the broadening of economic and trade relations, and left Tehran yesterday.

Official on Price Control, 'Punishment Plan'

LD2106155288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] We begin the news with a report on an interview with the managing director of the organization for the protection of consumers and producers and the deputy interior minister concerning a circular from the prime minister's office and the government punishment plan:

By order of the prime minister, all ministries must avoid increasing prices for services without prior coordination with the Economic Council and the Organization for Consumer Protection. The managing director of this organization, stating this in an IRNA interview, added: The anti-inflationary policy and price control must go into effect in all sectors. Regarding the new list of goods subject to the government punishment plan, he said: The new items will be announced soon after approval by the heads of the three government branches. It will include consumables, housing, education, transportation, communication, and raw materials for agriculture and mines.

He added: The telecommunications organization has been informed of this so it will avoid any price increases without prior coordination with the Organization for Consumer Protection and the Economic Council. He stressed that anyone who violates the circular will be dealt with according to the government punishment plan.

He referred to the current discrepancies in pricing policies across the provinces and said: On the basis of the addendum to the government punishment plan, guilds pricing will be carried out on a provincial basis. This is the responsibility of the provincial supervisory comissions chaired by the governors general. As a result of this, any shortcomings in pricing of various goods, including fruit and vegetables, will be minimized.

The report adds that during the same interview, the deputy interior minister declared that the government punishment plan has been successful across the country. He said the plan will be enforced strongly. He said: As a result of efforts by inspectors and security agents, a number of horders of essential goods such as meat, chicken, eggs, and construction girders, were recently arrested. Some were fined as much as 80 million tumans and a number were exiled.

Warning hoarders, he said: From now on horders will be dealt with severely and heavy penalties, such as prison terms or long exiles, will be handed out. He stressed that such individuals should realize that the government will not show any forgiveness in such cases.

IRGC Aircraft Industry Projects Described

PM1706145588 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 May 88 p 14

[Report on an interview with the unidentified head of the IRGC aircraft industries by an unnamed ETTELA'AT correspondent; date, place not given]

[Text] The head of the IRGC aircraft industries talked about the founding of his organization: In the spring of 1984, the foundation was laid to establish an aircraft industry within the IRGC, keeping in mind the needs of our Islamic country for such an industry. This was undertaken with great effort by IRGC Ministry officials.

The unit's first mission was to produce a reconnaissance drone for flights over operational areas.

Production of the drone was started by dedicated experts of the aircraft industries. Some research had been done in this area on advanced models of the plane and its electronic systems. Thank God, with the work of our dedicated brothers, advanced models of this aircraft were produced. Test flights of the plane were successful and, at present, they have reached an even more advanced level than their original models.

The head of the IRGC aircraft industries told our reporter: The Western countries manufacturing aircraft do mostly research work. They have not yet tested their aircraft in battle or on operational fronts. However, we have enough experience in this regard and today we have no problems in producing drones.

He stressed: Along with drones, work has also started on passenger planes. The first step taken by the industry was to make one type of this plane using only local facilities and resources. The aim was to prove that the country could support an aircraft industry. We also wanted to disprove the claim of those linked to the East and West that we cannot make planes. We wanted the people to understand that with the help of the expert Hezbollah workers, one can make a prototype of this aircraft and fly it.

This is why a model of this aircraft was manufactured and flown using only local resources. It only took a few months to manufacture and test this aircraft.

The second stage of our work involved a plane that could carry two people, and again an effort was made to use only local resources so that the plane could be placed at the disposal of the fighters. In this connection, an aircraft was designed and made. Some 80 percent of its facilities came from within the country. There was an effort to make the plane itself, using only local resources. It took only a short time to design and manufacture the plane. Test flights were successful. We even carried out flights with this plane from town to town. The IRGC command ordered several of these aircrafts and they are now being manufactured.

He added: We also have worked on a passenger plane made of alloys. This type of plane is part of a new world technology. The world is investing in this type of aircraft because it does not require confiscated equipment and advanced technology. It is also lighter than aircraft made of metal, while in terms of physics and mechanics, its parts are stronger. It is beneficial for a plane to be made stronger, lighter, its agility greatly improved and capable of carrying weight. A prototype of this plane has been made, tested successfully, and put on the production line.

A research program began a few months ago to manufacture a metal-bodied jet fighter. Many of its parts have been made and it will soon be ready to fly. When finished, this aircraft will prove to our people and to the world that we can compete on a level with the East and the West when it comes to military airplanes. We will prove that we are able to copy or design and manufacture any type of aircraft.

He stressed: The responsibility given the aircraft industries is great. If the people do not help us in this regard, we may not be able to build up to the speed that we want. Our people and officials must be united in their views with regard to the manufacture of this plane.

He then talked about the teams of experts: In the future these people can make any plane of any design, no matter how complicated. At present we are studying plans for a jet fighter. The various steps and stages of its research are being completed. Production of this plane will begin following the completion of the Martyr Sani-'pur plan.

We started making helicopters some 3 years ago. So far, our work includes the manufacture of a pilotless helicopter, troop-carrying helicopters, and logistical support helicopters. In this regard, prototypes have been designed and made and production has begun.

He added: The helicopter drone can be used in guard duty. Fitted cameras would enable the helicopter to do guard duty and also transmit pictures to the ground station detailing the enemy's operational theater on a television screen. The work on this plan has been completed and it is now on the production line.

Another project involving helicopters is the manufacture and testing of a helicopter capable of carrying two people. A text flight has been successful. There are two other plans in the works. One is a gunship similar to the Cobra, which hopefully will be tested by September. There is also an advanced backup support helicopter which would help the fighters. Production work began some 6 months ago; the manufacture of the helicopter and its parts are under way.

The head of the IRGC aircraft industries then commented on future programs. Our thoughts and plans are such that after we finish work on the projects mentioned, we will continue to develop plans for air systems that would compete with those made by the East and West—perhaps even better. We are making plans in this regard and details and actions of the work done will be announced to the Hezbollah people at a later date.

Keep in mind that the aircraft industry in this country has always been a dependent entity. There were certain people in the former regime engaged in this type of work. During the 10 years since the revolution, these forces have done nothing in the area of design or manufacture of planes for the revolution. Those people who felt a religious duty recognized that the war and the revolution needed planes, so they offered their expertise. Those who are capable of technical and expert work were asked to become members of the IRGC aircraft industries in order to can carry out our present and future projects as soon as possible.

Volunteers From Kazerun, Shiraz Depart for Front

LD2106184488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] In continuation of the departure of popular volunteer forces for the battlefronts, a large number of volunteer mobilization forces departed from Kazerun yesterday under the banner of the "Special Caravan of His Holiness Mohammad, Blessings Be Upon Him and All His Scion." In addition, a number of propaganda and cultural forces were dispatched to the fronts from Shiraz this afternoon from Fars Province's Islamic Propaganda Organization.

Air Force Official Denies Jet Shot Down

LD2106192788 Tehran IRNA in English 1924 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA—Iran today denied an Iraqi claim that it had shot down an Iranian jet fighter. An Air Force official told IRNA that Iran's fighter-bombers had successfully carried out their missions today and returned to bases safely. He described the Iraqi claim as a "mere lie."

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,240

LD2106163688 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters flew eight separate sorties Tuesday, heavily bombing Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites in Mehran operational region and Iraq's northern Al-Sulaymaniyah Province. All fighters returned safely to bases inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy.

The 3240th Joint Staff communique, announcing the above, reported here today that an undetermined number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded, parts of enemy fortifications set ablaze and several vehicles of theirs destroyed in artillery duels with Iran's Muslim combatants yesterday.

Iranian artillery fire repelled three Iraqi patrol convoys in Qasr-e Shirin, Sumar and 'Eyn-e Khowsh, western sector, Monday, killing a number of enemy patrolmen.

On Monday, Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in zones of their influence yesterday, killing and wounding a number of enemy soldiers and setting ablaze a munitions dump and several gun emplacements of theirs.

Heavy fire of Iran's Muslim forces checked Iraqi logistical operations in Kani-Sheykh, Dow Sheykh, Badrah, Salman Faraj, Helaleh and Nahr 'Anbar and enemy engineering operations in Sumar Monday, inflicting some casualties and losses on the enemy.

Air Force Bombs Iraqi Troop Sites

LD2106105888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced: Air Force pilots in their fighter bombers in four separate missions at 0935, 0945, 1135, and 1140 this morning heavily bombed troop concentrations of the 1st Iraqi Corps north of Al-Sulaymaniyah Province. After inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the aggressive enemy, all planes returned safely to their bases.

3,000 Iraqi Casualties

LD2206105488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Thanks to the timely response of fighters of the Ground Forces of the IRGC, an attack by the Iraqi Zionist regime along the (Gardehrash) axes, the Hamadan hills, and the (Qamish) heights in the Mawat sector was repulsed. The enemy suffered heavy losses and casualties.

The IRGC General Staff issued a communique on this attack which says: During this clash, which continued through last night, more than 3,000 mercenaries of the regime ruling over Iraq were either killed or wounded and more than 15 enemy tanks and personnel carriers and 130 light and heavy vehicles, together with a considerable number of light and heavy weapons and ammunition, were set on fire and destroyed.

IRGC, Peshmerga Mine Road

LD2006215688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] According to a report from Ramadan Headquarters, during the past few days the Center for Irregular Warfare of the IRGC and Kurdish Hezbollahi Peshmergas planted a number of mines on (Kolikaam) road in Iraq's Irbil Province destroying two trucks carrying ammunition and military equipment of the Zionist Iraqi regime and annihilating or wounding five Iraqi Army personnel.

Kurds Launch Attacks in North

LD2106162488 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA—Iran's Muslim forces in league with Iraq's Kurdish peshmergas attacked several bases and headquarters of the Iraqi Army in Shiladza and Suri [names as received] towns in the northern Province of Dahuk over the past week, killing and wounding 120 Ba'thist soldiers.

The Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), announcing the above, reported here Tuesday that five Iraqi soldiers were also captured, 10 enemy vehicles and a high pressure pylon were destroyed and a large number of light and heavy weapons seized intact during the attacks.

In related news, Kurdish Hizballah, in a series of daring attacks on a checkpost in Qal'a Sameh [as received] and a military outpost in Nahr Diyalah region, northeastern Iraq, last week killed 30 Ba'thist soldiers, and wounded many others.

At least 50 other Iraqi soldiers were killed and five enemy bases destroyed over 'Jarukahlid' Heights [placename as received] in the northern Province of Irbil two days ago when attacked by the peshmergas and forces of Iraq's Islamic Amal organization.

Release of POW's Planned

LD1806170888 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Tabriz, East Azarbayjan Prov., June 18, IRNA—The Islamic Republic is to unilaterally repatriate another batch of disabled Iraqi POW's solely as a humanitarian act, announced head of Iran's Red Crescent Society Vahid Dastjerdi here Saturday.

In a talk with IRNA, Dr. Dastjerdi said Islamic Iran in line with its humanitarian principles has unilaterally released a number of disabled Iraqi POW's over the past two years. But, he noted, the Iraqi regime has not repatriated even a single Iranian POW. "Pressures exerted by the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) on Baghdad on the issue have been of no avail," he added.

The last instance disabled Iraqi POW's were released by Iran was on February 17, when a group of 29 was handed over to the ICRC representative here to be flown back home. It is worth recalling that minutes before the group was handed to ICRC officials, POW Khamis Hani Ma'la requested asylum in the Islamic Republic and was granted.

So far, 665 disabled Iraqi POW's have been unilaterally set free by the Islamic Republic since the start of the Iraqi-imposed war in September 1980, 177 of whom were freed in two stages during 1987.

Dastjerdi said hindrances created by the Iraqi regime have impeded ICRC efforts to gain information about the situation of Iranian POW's in Iraq as well as those missing in action.

An Iranian Red Crescent delegation, he said, will soon set off for Geneva to obtain further information about the situation of Iranian POW's and MIA's.

"Because of obstacles created by the Iraqi regime," Dastjerdi said "the society has failed to compile precise statistics on the number and situation of Iranian POW's and MIA's."

Last June 24, ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga had confirmed during his meeting with Iran's Ambassador to the U.N. bureau in Geneva 'Ali Naseri that the Iraqi regime is refusing to register Iranian POW's.

Tudeh Party Members Seek Asylum in W. Berlin

AU2006105988 Bonn DIE WELT in German 18-19 Jun 88 p 4

["W.K." report: "Tudeh Comrades Being Brought to Berlin"]

[Text] Bonn/Berlin—With the stream of Soviets withdrawing from Afghanistan, members of the pro-Soviet Communist Tudeh Party of Iran have left the country and have suddenly asked for asylum in West Berlin. After the arrival at the GDR Berlin-Schoenefeld Central Airport, the Tudeh members traveled on to the western part of the city.

According to statements made by well-informed sources to DIE WELT, guides from the SED [Socialist Unity Party] leadership, in cooperation with Soviet Government bodies, obviously made sure that the Iranians were able to pass the Eastern border checkpoints without any problem and found their way around in West Berlin. The SEW [Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin], the West Berlin branch of the GDR's SED, has been given the task of politically caring for the Tudeh members while material care is left to the West Berlin authorities.

A similar "division of labor" was agreed with the DKP [German (FRG) Communist Party] in Dusseldorf at the beginning of the 1980's. At that time the SED refused to accept refugees from Iran and showed them the way to the FRG.

The DKP stated that it is "to be demanded of the FRG Government that it immediately grant asylum" to the persecuted Iranians. Tudeh followers reportedly said that a propaganda center for communist activities in Islamic regions has been established in Afghanistan.

Flag of Freedom on Demonstrations in Tabriz

TA2106191988 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Struggles by our subjugated compatriots against the corrupt regime ruling our homeland are continuing. Our fellow strugglers have reported from Tabriz that numerous demonstrations were held there in the last few weeks against the Islamic Republic's system and the prolongation of the war. In the course of their marches the demonstrators repeated in particular the slogan "Death to Khomeyni" and "Down with the Islamic Republic."

Briefs

Narcotics Seized in Kerman

Tehran, June 18, IRNA—Some 4,700 kgs of heroin and opium were seized from 180 smugglers by personnel of the Islamic Revolutionary Committees (IRC) in Kerman Province since last February, said an IRC commander Saturday. The commander said that 120 weapons of various kind, 12,000 rounds of bullets, 120 vehicles and motorcycles and several generators and video sets were also seized from the arrested smugglers over the same period. He added that another 60 smugglers were killed in shootout with the IRC personnel in the desert north of Bam city, in the same southeastern province, since last February. [Text] [*LD1906030488 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 18 Jun 88*]

Nepal

39th Parliamentary Session Opens 17 Jun

BK1706113588 Hong Kong AFP in English 1117 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] Kathmandu, June 17 (AFP)—The 39th session of Nepal's National Panchayat, parliament, opened here Friday with opposition MP's saying more than 50 members would back a motion of no confidence in the premier to be tabled next week.

A parliamentary spokesman said that, following Friday's opening session, the National Panchayat would be adjourned till Wednesday when King Birendra will address the House.

The king is expected to announce the socio-economic and political programmes of the government of Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha for the fiscal year starting July 16, the spokesman added.

A pro-Panchayat (party-less system) but anti-prime minister group have said they will table a motion of no confidence in Mr Shrestha's two-year-old government on Thursday and claimed that they had the backing of between 52 and 55 members in the 140-seat chamber.

But pro-government sources said that they were confident the motion would be thrown out saying that Mr Shrestha enjoyed the support of an absolute majority in Parliament.

The pro-Panchayat group is led by former premier Lokendra Bahadur Chand, who wants to take over from Mr Shrestha in the event of his downfall, analysts said. They added that the motion and other opposition plans for the 39th session will raise much political controversy.

Parliament has three factions, one is the pro-Panchayat but anti-prime minister group, the second contains pro-Marxist and Leninist members who oppose both Mr Shretha and the Panchayat system, while the third supports the premier.

The leftist members have split from the motion-proposing group, complaining that they were not consulted before the draft was drawn up.

Analysts said ousting Mr Shrestha through a motion of no confidence is virtually impossible as without the support of the king's nominees, who constitute a quarter of the members, it would not be able to attain the required two-thirds majority of the house.

But if the motion is successfully registered in parliament, which requires a minimum 25 percent of signatures, the prime minister might voluntarily step down in the interests of the partyless polity, they said.

Pakistan

Ziaul Haq Appoints Political Adviser

BK2106152988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has appointed Brigadier, Retired, Mohammad Asghar as his political adviser. His appointment has been made with immediate effect and he will enjoy the position and status of a federal minister.

President Names Kashmir Council Ministers

BK2206023988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] The president, who is also the chairman of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council, has nominated five federal ministers as members of the council. The names of the ministers are: Dr Mahbubul Haq, Mahmud A. Haroon, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani, and Chaudhary Shujat Hussain.

Opposition Hails Court Ruling on Parties Act

BK2106141188 Hong Kong AFP in English 1304 GMT 21 Jun 88

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, June 21 (AFP)—The Pakistani opposition has hailed a Supreme Court ruling overturning Mohammad Ziaul Haq's restrictions on political parties as a political victory over the president.

Monday's ruling that amendments to the Political Parties Act introduced by General Ziaul Haq under military rule in 1986 were null and void not only affected the immediate political scene but could have far-reaching consequences, legal experts said.

The ruling "eliminates threats of disqualification of government adversaries," from the electoral process, one said.

The judgment may be unpalatable to President Ziaul Haq, but it vindicated the independence of the Judiciary as it not only overturned a presidential ruling but also ignored a later bill validating martial law legislation, they added.

The court was ruling on a petition from Benazir Bhutto, who heads the main opposition party, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), that the amendments to the parties act requiring parties to register with the Election Commission were illegal under the Constitution. Ms. Bhutto said the verdict marked a victory in her party's struggle against unconstitutional measures.

The ruling meant that the PPP and eight other parties in the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) that had failed to register under the act would be able to take part in elections, observers said.

Gen. Ziaul Haq sacked the government and dissolved Parliament on May 29 and new elections are due within 90 days of the dissolution under the Constitution.

The Supreme Court ruling was also a significant political victory for Ms. Bhutto over Gen. Ziaul Haq as the court had demonstrated its power to nullify laws introduced under martial law, ignoring blanket protection for such legislation endorsed by the National Assembly before it was dissolved, analysts said here.

Gen. Ziaul Haq has not named a date for elections, but rumours circulating in the capital Tuesday said he might announce a date in the next few days and polls might be held in the first week of August.

Influential MRD leader Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan in a statement described the "historic judgment" as "a success of democratic forces and defeat for General Ziaul Haq."

He added that it was too early to say if all the parties would take part in elections, adding he could not say anything until the president made his intentions clear.

"Confusion and uncertainity on elections have been delibrately created by the rulers," he added.

On Gen. Ziaul Haq's introduction of shari'a (Islamic) laws last week, the MRD leader said the steps being taken by the current caretaker government gave the impression that they were not there only for an interim period.

The religious minister in the interim government, Wasi Mazhar Nadvi, has said he felt that political parties were not allowed under Islam.

The Shari'a Ordinance promulgated by the president empowers superior courts to consider any petition declaring that a law is repugnant to Islamic teachings.

Another opposition leader Mairaj Mohammed Khan said the shari'a laws had been introduced to enable President Ziaul Haq to "cancel the polls if he could not get positive results."

The PPP is likely to gain popularity following Monday's judgment, analysts said, but if it did take part in the election and came to power it would have to work with Gen. Ziaul Haq who was confirmed as president until 1990 in a 1984 referendum.

Ms. Bhutto has refused to answer questions on this issue, saying they are hypothetical.

Soviet Charge of Violating Accords Assailed

BK2106110788 Lahore JANG in Urdu
12 Jun 88 p 10

[Editorial: "The Soviet Allegations"]

[Text] The Pakistani ambassador to the Soviet Union, Shahid Amin, was summoned to the Soviet Foreign Ministry the other day. He was handed a protest note accusing Pakistan of violating the Geneva agreement and stating that weapons and foreign advisers are being sent to Afghanistan through Pakistan. Rejecting the Soviet protest, Pakistan has asked the UN secretary general to investigate these allegations through UN observers in Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union started accusing Pakistan of violating the Geneva accords only a few days after the agreement was signed. These allegations were made in view of the resistance activities by the Afghan mujahidin. But the fact is that Pakistan has never provided any guarantee about these activities. Nor can they be termed foreign interference in Afghanistan, because a large number of mujahidin are active against the Soviet and Afghan forces in that country. Instead of accusing Pakistan, the Soviet Union should explain where the billions of dollars worth of weapons supplied by it to Afghanistan only a few days before the signing of the Geneva accords were intended to be used? Violations of Pakistan's land and airspace by the puppet Afghan regime continue unabated.

The Soviet Union would like to see the puppet regime and its supporters in power even after its withdrawal from Afghanistan. But the Afghan mujahidin are capable of bringing an end to the Afghan Government within just a few days in the absence of the Soviet support to it. The continuance of the puppet regime itself is a testimony to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Pakistan, by rejecting the Soviet allegations and proposing an investigation into these allegations by UN observers, has thrown the ball to the Soviet side. It was an ugly attempt by the USSR to cover up its activities in Afghanistan. The struggle being made by the Afghan mujahidin to secure the independence of their homeland and to establish a government of their choice constitutes their basic right and it is in no way fair to hold Pakistan responsible for this.

Sri Lanka

Reportage on IPKF Military Operations in Jaffna

5 'Terrorists' Captured

BK1806104288 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
1009 GMT 18 Jun 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 18 June (LANKAPUVATH)—Five terrorists were apprehended in operations conducted by the Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka's Jaffna Peninsula, yesterday.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH today that Indian troops apprehended three terrorists at Mathagal and two terrorists at Jaffna town.

The sources also said that a group of terrorists had ambushed a logistic move, comprising 1 sergeant and 19 reservists at Neelapola, Trincomalee yesterday. The terrorists, however, fled when security forces returned the fire. One Sri Lankan soldier was injured in the encounter.

A report from Vavuniya states, the guard point manned by police near Vavuniya hospital opposite the government agent's residence was attacked by a group of terrorists. The attack was successfully repulsed by police. No casualties were listed.

In the same area at about 2400 hours [1830 GMT] yesterday the TELO terrorist group's office was blasted by a rival gang.

Meanwhile, at Killinochchi, one IPKF soldier was killed and another seriously injured, when a civil lorry hit a landmine at Terumurikandy on the Kandy road yesterday.

The lorry was moving along with an IPKF convoy from Skandapuram towards Killinochchi, when it was caught in the explosion.

The driver of the lorry and his helpmate were also injured in the blast.

Another report from Trincomalee states, five unidentified youths dressed in camouflaged uniforms and dark clothes and armed with knives and at least one armed with a pistol robbed cash and goods from two houses to the value of 10,000 rupees in Mollipothana.

LTTE 'Murder Squad' Caught

BK2006124088 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1153 GMT 20 Jun 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpt] Colombo, June 20 (LANKAPUVATH)—Captioned "Sixty LTTE Hit-Men in IPKF Net," a front page item in the DAILY NEWS states an LTTE murder squad of thirty men believed to have been responsible for a number of massacres including nearly a dozen of the group's leaders, and four young women guerrillas who were fully armed, were among a crop of suspects arrested during the last 48 hours as the IPKF continued its sweeping search for arms and terrorists in the Northern and Eastern Provinces over the weekend. [passage omitted]

Troops Begin New Offensive

BK2106111088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1052 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Colombo, June 21 (AFP) — Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka have launched a fresh offensive against the dominant Tamil separatist group in the island's troubled north, official sources said Tuesday.

Hundreds of soldiers in full battledress stepped up the hunt for guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) Monday in the biggest operation against the militants this year, official sources said.

The Indian High Commission (embassy) spokesman here confirmed that a fresh operation code named "Checkmate" was under way.

"The latest operation is bigger than the two previous offensives this year," the spokesman said without elaborating.

Official sources said simultaneous cordon and search operations were launched in Mullaitivu district and the Vadamarachchi region of the northern Jaffna Peninsula, which is the birthplace of LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran.

The offensive was partly aimed at pinning down Mr Prabhakaran and his military commanders who are waging an eight-month-old bush war against some 52,000 Indian troops, the official sources said.

A Sri Lankan military spokesman here had no details of the operation, but said that nearly 50 suspected LTTE activists had been captured by Indian troops Monday.

The fresh search came four days after the LTTE announced that it was ready to end the fight against Indians and was close to reaching a truce.

Tamil sources here said the talks between the LTTE and officials of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), India's external intelligence agency, had reached deadlock.

The fresh attacks against the LTTE were seen here as a move by New Delhi to put pressure on the militants to give up arms.

Nearly 2,500 people, including some 480 Indian soldiers, have died since New Delhi launched an offensive October 10 to disarm the LTTE after the group repudiated a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact which sought to end Tamil separatist violence.

Southern 'Terrorists' Kill 3 Policemen 16 Jun

BK1706104988 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1029 GMT 17 Jun 88

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 17 June (LANKAPUVATH)—Three policemen and a government cultivation officer were killed by southern terrorists, during the last 24 hours.

Police told LANKAPUVATH that a mobile police patrol was fired at with shot guns and at least one T-56 rifle by terrorists at 2115 hours [1545 GMT] last night, at Lunugamvehara in the Hambantota police area killing two police constables.

The terrorists had fired at the 10 policemen on mobile patrol from the two sides of a narrow road leading to Lunugamvehera Colony-5.

Police gave the names of the dead policemen as Constable Dickson Ratna and Reserve Constable Dharmasena.

Two other policemen, who were seriously wounded, were airlifted to Colombo and warded at the Sri Jayawardenepura hospital for emergency surgery. They are Lalith Kumara and Dharmasena.

A report from Hakmana in the Matara District, also in southern Sri Lanka, states Police Constable Vitharana attached to the Ambalantota police, had been shot and stabbed to death, while on leave at his home in Yatiyana by southern terrorists last evening. About 20 terrorists had raided his home and taken two guns belonging to the policeman.

Police said that this morning, Jatunge Hatharasinghe, a government cultivation officer, was on his way to a boutique to make some purchases, when he too was shot dead by southern terrorists at 0730 at Akuressa in the Matara District.

'Massive' Bomb Blast Damages Colombo Building

BK1706120988 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1050 GMT 17 Jun 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 17 June (LANKAPUVATH)—A massive bomb explosion in the early hours of this morning wrecked the ground floor of a multi storeyed building in Kollupitiya, three miles from Colombo City center. Police told LANKAPUVATH that the blast, believed to have been caused by a 15-kilogram high explosive bomb, which had been placed in a toilet of a betting shop on the ground floor of the building, exploded at 0330 hours (local time) this morning.

Apart from a security guard suffering from shock, the explosion caused no injury to any other. Police believe the incident to have been sparked by business rivalry.

Amnesty Group 'Blind' to 'Terrorist' Crimes

BK2106123788 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1128 GMT 21 Jun 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, June 21 (LANKAPUVATH)—Official sources referring to an Amnesty International report issued today urging the Sri Lankan Government to prevent torture, political killing and disappearances said there was hardly anything new in the report.

They reiterated the earlier stand taken by the Sri Lankan Government, which is that any affected person can under the Constitution move the judiciary or police to cause in investigation as fundamental rights were protected by the Constitution.

Exparte affidavits are useless in an investigation of this nature.

Official sources said that after the position was explained one or two persons had gone to court and obtained redress.

It is rejected that Amnesty International has not caused any investigation into the thousands of killings, torture and atrocities committed by the LTTE, JVP and other terrorist groups, the sources said.

It is well established that these terrorists have massacred [words indistinct] villages, families including infants, old men and women, and killed civilians and members of rival groups.

It is obvious, the sources said, that Amnesty International has been only interested in putting out a one-track report against the Sri Lankan Government while being deliberately blind to the massacres and atrocities committed by terrorists in Sri Lanka.